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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-112
Wednesday
10 June 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Russian Foreign Minister on Arms Reductions

At the conclusion of talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington, ITAR-TASS reports that Kozyrev stated, “We were unable to reach agreement on the problem of further nuclear arms reductions.” “‘Our difficulties at the talks,’ the minister said, were not connected with ‘finding a balance of mutual threats’ but were brought about by a quest for a ‘correct, realistic, and technically feasible path for liquidating the stockpiled weapons arsenals.’” Regarding the use of nuclear arms, Kozyrev said, “‘we have no intention of using these arms against the United States.’”

Russian Minister on Return of Kurils

Russian Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, in an interview with Tokyo KYODO, said that Russian “President Boris Yeltsin would be swept from power if he announced the return of disputed islands to Japan during a scheduled Tokyo visit in September.” He said that “‘it is simply impossible’ for Yeltsin to announce the islands’ return ’at present.’” The minister called upon Japan “to understand the situation in Russia, the fact that public opinion in Russia must ‘ripen’.”

Yeltsin Addresses Armed Forces Officials

Moscow TV reports at a conference of the senior command of Russia’s Armed Forces, President Boris Yeltsin reiterated his support for strengthening Russia’s boundaries, stating “the first thing, and probably the top priority, is the border with the Baltic States” including Estonia, “partly with Latvia and Lithuania,” and with Byelarus. Due to the “illegal outflow of goods...from Russia” and the “penetration by intelligence services of foreign countries” “against the Russian Federation,” Yeltsin has decided to “press ahead” with a customs service.

A number of appointments were made at the meeting including Colonel General Viktor Dubynin as “chief of staff of the Russian Army and first deputy defense minister” and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov as his deputy, ITAR-TASS reports. Also named deputy defense ministers were Colonel Generals Vladimir Toporov, Valeriy Mironov, and Georgiy Kondratyev.

Yeltsin Denies Resignation Rumors

Russian President Boris Yeltsin “categorically denied” rumors about the Cabinet’s plans to resign after his return from the United States in June, reports INTERFAX. Yeltsin noted that newly appointed vice prime ministers—Shumeyko, Chernomyrdin, and Khizha—“‘strongly backed” the Russian reform program and said that they “will not allow Gaydar’s team to split up.’” Yeltsin affirmed that he will remain head of the government and noted that he would leave the post only when he sees “that Gaydar’s team can work without me efficiently.”

Chechen President on Ties With Russia

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev stated at a news conference that “‘Russia does not have and cannot have any right to decide the fate of the Chechen and Ingush peoples,’” ITAR-TASS reports, and he described as “provocative” the Russian leader’s actions to form the Ingush Republic “within the Russian Federation.”

On the subject of Russian troop withdrawals, Dudayev “confirmed the Chechen Republic does not have a single foreign soldier on its territory.” He claimed the officers themselves “prompted” the speedy withdrawal because they “deliberately spoiled materiel...destroyed foodstuffs and uniforms” and the “majority of them behaved like barbarians and instigators.”

G-7 To Discuss CIS Nuclear Power Plants

LD0906183292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyubov Dunayeva]

[Text] Moscow June 9 TASS—The G-7 meeting in Munich, scheduled for July 6, plans to discuss, among other problems, the situation on CIS nuclear power plants. It is suggested to re-equip, stop or dismantle unsafe nuclear power plants on the territories of CIS countries, as well as in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Financial aid will be given to re-equip the stations.

"The closure of only Russian nuclear power plants will produce an economic catastrophe, because 12 percent of all the electricity consumed by the Russian economy comes from nuclear power plants," ITAR-TASS was told by vice-president of the "Rosenergoatom" concern Yevgeniy Ignatenko. "Of course," he said, "some of the generators do not conform to world safety standards. There are eight such units in Russia today."

"One such unit has been fully modernised, three others are undergoing repairs, and there is no money to modernise the remaining four. The financial aid, promised by the International Atomic Energy Agency two years ago, was not received. The European Communities Commission has allotted 80 million ECU [European currency unit] for the modernisation of unsafe plants, but we have so far received not more than one million—a drop in the sea. Moreover, aid is being hinged every time on definite terms. There are many such terms today, but no real help," Ignatenko said.

"Even within the country we are unable to get the money owed us by consumers of electricity from nuclear power plants. This debt amounts to 5.5 billion roubles, let alone the 5 per cent hard currency revenues for power supplied abroad. If this money was received in proper time, we wouldn't have needed any Western aid at all. We have highly skilled Russian specialists and corresponding blueprints," Ignatenko noted.

'Start' Rocket Seen as Key to Space Market

927Q0172A Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jun 92 p 4

[Article by O. Volkov and D. Molchanov: "Private Operators Going Out Into Space: The First CIS Commercial Rocket Takes Off in December"]

[Text] It was proposed in the first version of the strategic offensive arms reduction treaty that all missiles taken off combat alert be destroyed. Thank God the final version permitted use of the former military rockets and developed technologies for commercial purposes. And a couple of years ago, several plants of the former Ministry of Defense Industry undertook to create the Start system, based on the SS-20 and SS-25 missiles, which can be used to place small commercial satellites in near-Earth orbit. The creation and commercial use of space systems require large capital investments. All the same, this is considered a very advantageous business. Today, for example, interested firms will pay about $60-80 million to charter a launch vehicle, an outlay within the capabilities only of a government or major corporation.

In the words of Yuriy Solomonov, director of the center "Complex," satellite launching services which use the Start system will cost a potential customer $7-10 million.

"That is lower than market prices, but it is not dumping," he states. "Analysis of the international market has shown that we may receive about 300 orders prior to the year 2000. And we are still counting on participating in the American project "Iridium"—creation of a network of 77 communications satellites in low orbit, which will enable us to use telephone in the most remote corners of the planet. Participation in this program will bring us a profit and will open the way for Russia's entry into the world system of information and communications. The Americans were planning on using their own Delta and Pegasus rockets in this program. Now, having become aware of our project, they say they will take the most inexpensive launch vehicle."

In addition to everything else, this project allows us to retain highly qualified personnel and resolve the employment problem.

For somewhat over two years the creators of Start wandered from ministry to ministry attempting to gain access to the government. Groups of experts under auspices of the president obtained approval, but...

"The Ryzhkov and Pavlov governments failed to make a decision on capital investments, although the return from Start should exceed expenditures many times over," states Yu. Solomonov.

Changes for the better were seen immediately following the putsch. And recently the Start-1 project was approved by Gaydar. Solomonov believes that the present government is simply more practical and businesslike. It must be clarified, though, that the project does not ask for a single kopek out of the state budget. Investments for the operation are being made by the joint-stock company I.V.K.

"Up until now we have not been involved in projects this significant," states Sergey Zinchenko, vice president of the I.V.K. company. "When representatives of the defense establishment approached us a year ago, we pondered over it for two months. It is an advantageous endeavor. According to our calculations, several launches of Start—an experimental launch will take place in December and commercial missions may take place as early as next year—will recoup all investments."

The concept of private operators in space is a new one for us and, if for that reason alone, we are somewhat suspicious of it. And the point here is not even the fact of dealing with a little-known investor, or in the dividends

I.V.K. will obtain from the project, developed by state enterprises (20 percent of the capital, according to S. Zinchenko, still belongs to the state).

The point is that the project shows a definite orientation on the foreign market. True, the directors of "Complex" and I.V.K. assure us in a single voice that they are relying primarily on domestic orders and cite the example of such-and-such a bank which sponsored the launch of a satellite. Yet all the same, quite honestly, it is difficult to imagine how one of our new millionaires would today require the launch of a satellite. While those who truly need it—scientific research institutes, ecologists—cannot afford to charter a launch without government assistance.

On the other hand, analysis of the international small-satellite market shows that they are waiting impatiently for a cheap launch vehicle out there. And if, as Start developers assure us, their project truly is not being caused to fall under restrictions of different kinds, our rockets will be able to successfully compete with American and French rockets and participate in long-term international projects.

In extracting ourselves from the domestic military-industrial complex, we may fall into the military-industrial complex abroad. After all, as one American specialist explained to us, "the largest number of potential clients desiring to launch small satellites will be found among the military—especially those connected with the Strategic Defense Initiative."

For the time being, it is true that all "Complex" and I.V.K. contacts with foreigners are established and maintained through the Russian Government. Later on, after becoming well known and attaining a certain prestige in the international arena, Start developers may well refuse its services.

Nuclear Contamination Issues

Mayak Military Plant's Waste Irradiated 500,000

OW0706133192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1307 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 7 KYODO—Nuclear waste discharges from a Russian military facility from 1949 to 1967 irradiated half a million people, according to a report by Russian experts.

The planned and accidental discharges from the Mayak facility in the southern Urals dispersed 150 million curies of radiation into the environment, "apparently-...higher than the quantities discharged in Hiroshima and Chernobyl," says the report obtained Sunday [7 June] by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The "small but constant acting doses of irradiation" the residents received have "not existed anywhere in the world," says the report by experts at the Institute of Biophysics of the former Soviet Ministry of Health in Chelyabinsk, western Russia.

The report, based on 40 years of investigation, is to be published soon in the British journal "NATURE."

It says 28,000 people were "severely irradiated" and 8,015 died over a 32-year observation period as a result of the discharges.

The 37 observed cases of leukemia "significantly exceeded" the number one would statistically expect in a similar population, the report says.

Medical studies performed several years after people were irradiated were "under-equipped, under-staffed," and "discouraged by the government," it says, adding that many of the 270,000 people irradiated in a 1957 accident remain untreated.

Radioactive wastes from the Mayak facility some 100 kilometers northwest of Chelyabinsk contaminated some 26,700 square kilometers covering Russia's Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, and Tyumensk Provinces, resulting in "the medical consequences of the irradiation of about half a million residents of this area," the report says.

The facility, built in 1948 to produce plutonium, the basic component of nuclear weapons, concentrated and stored highly radioactive wastes in specially equipped containers while disposing of less active wastes in such open areas as a nearby river or lake, according to the report.

Accounts of experts with access to Mayak's records and other information show "repeated 'planned' discharges of radioactivity into the Techa River and the environment," the report says.

Also, it says, "many unexpected, so-called 'wild overflows' and breakdown situations" occurred at the Mayak facility.

"In all, beginning in 1949, no less than 150 million curies of radioactive substances were discharged into the environment as a result of Mayak's activity," the report quotes an official of the supreme council subcommittee on nuclear energetics and nuclear ecology as saying.

The report says 76 million cubic meters of liquid radioactive waste with a total radioactivity of 2.75 million curies was discharged from 1949 to 1956 into the Techa—"the major, and in certain places, the only source of drinking water for the residents."

Nearly 95 percent of that radiation entered the river between March 1950 and November 1951, the report says.

The average daily release during the period was 4,300 curies but it reached 100,000 curies on some days. The discharges caused increased levels of irradiation in 124,000 people, it says.

In the September 1957 case, a container of highly radioactive liquid waste exploded from overheating, discharging close to 20 million curies of radioactive compounds into the environment, the report says.

Nearly 18 million curies of the fallout "settled in close proximity to the depository," while the other 2 million curies dispersed over 23,000 square kilometers encompassing the three provinces.

About 10,200 of the area's 272,000 residents were relocated from the most highly contaminated regions, the report says.

From April 10 to May 15, 1967, "dust particles of radioactive matter" amounting to 600 curies were carried by the wind from the shores of the "gradually evaporating" lake Karachay, used to dispose of Mayak's liquid radioactive waste, according to the report.

The material dispersed as far as 76 kilometers from the lake, covering 2,700 square kilometers where 41,5000 people lived, the report says.

'Fateful Errors' in Chelyabinsk Oblast Detailed

LD0506133392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Video report by correspondent S. Sergeyev from Chelyabinsk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today is World Environmental Protection Day. The Commonwealth countries are at the center of attention of world ecologists. For instance, we are second in the world in terms of emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, it is not the only area where we are the leader.

[Begin recording] [Sergeyev] The building of a major industrial complex to produce weapons-grade plutonium began in the Urals tayga at the end of the forties. The haste, caused by the necessity of acquiring nuclear weapons as fast as possible, and the absence, in those years, of experience among atomic experts led to fateful errors. [video shows interior of facility, containers, rods, water]

Radioactive water was discharged into the surrounding rivers and lakes. As a result of several accidents, extensive areas turned out to have been contaminated, while the thermal explosion in 1957 is not being called the Urals Chernobyl by accident: 20 million curies were released into the atmosphere at that time—nature and people alike suffered. The consequences of these accidents have not been eliminated to this very day. [video shows forest and a sign: State Nature Reserve: the picking of mushrooms, berries, and grasses is forbidden. Another sign has the international radiation symbol and the words: Danger—Radiation. Video also shows people with measuring instruments]

The fact that more than 1 billion curies of radioactive waste has accumulated on the shop floor of the Mayak defense complex—that is to say 20 Chernobyls—is causing alarm not just among the inhabitants of the Urals region, but throughout the entire world. [video shows large floor area with circular shapes cut into it, containers are seen in the distance; a large boiler-like or drum-like structure, suspended overhead, is seen advancing across]

An appeal to declare Chelyabinsk Oblast an ecological disaster area was made during the First Congress of People's Deputies of Russia. This status would make it possible to close down production facilities that are harmful to the environment and to pay compensation and benefits to those who became the victim of the South Urals nuclear industry. [video shows men in white aprons looking at blueprints, control room]

However...

[B.A. Peskov, deputy chairman of the oblast committee for ecology and the use of nature] Norms or methods to determine what is an ecological disaster area are at present completely absent. That is to say, there is no mechanism to approach this problem. [end recording]

Environmental Impact of Perm Blasts Probed

PM0906082392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Video report by V. Fefilov from Perm, from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Fefilov to camera] It has now become officially known that 10 underground nuclear explosions were carried out in Perm Oblast.

A Russian Supreme Soviet Committee group of experts is currently studying the consequences of these explosions for the ecology of the Kama River basin. It has already established that at some of the sites there are leaks of radionuclides. At least the background radiation there...

[B. Golubov, chief of the expert group] ...in individual boreholes up to 300 microroentgens have been measured. In any case, there is no need to panic...

[Fefilov] The experts also optimistically assured the press that they will do everything possible and impossible to save the flora and fauna of the Kama river basin. [video shows street scene, map of the area, interview]

Baykal Radiation Safety Council Established

LD0806134592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0640 GMT 7 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[Text] Irkutsk, 7 Jun ITAR-TASS—One more custodian of the protection of the environment and health of the Irkutsk Oblast has arisen, the Council for Radiation Safety, set up by a decision of the head of the administration. There are no nuclear power stations in the Baykal region, but there is a uranium plant. In the 1970's and 1980's "secret" nuclear explosions were detonated on its territory. Quite recently a consignment of training aids with sources dangerous to health was stolen from an unguarded store of a depot of training manuals in Irkutsk. Specialists of the regional inspectorate and "Radon" inter-oblast special radiation safety combine, civil defense, scientists of the Geochemistry Institute of the Siberian department of the Russian Academy of Sciences, together with others, have joined the council, which is a coordinating, consultative, and expert body of local executive authority. Their first task is to carry out work to reveal and deactivate "spots" of radioactive pollution in populated areas, industrial centers, and zones of people's mass recreation.

Radioactivity 'Can Easily Escape' Chernobyl

OW0906163992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The General Director of the scientific-technical center of the Ukraine Academy of Sciences Professor Vladimir Karasev said in an interview for the press that the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl power plant damaged in the 1986 accident needs a new cement casing. Karasev said that the crack in the old cement casing is approximately 1000 square meters. Radioactive particles can easily escape. Karasev said the isolation of the old block will take 5 years. The scientist said that an international competition for the technical foundation of sarcophagus-2 will be announced. The jury will consist of leading specialists from Ukraine and abroad.

International Forum Criticizes 'Nuclear Mafia'

PM0806103792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Jun 92 First Edition p 4

[Tatyana Smolyakova report under the "Ecology" rubric: "Render Unto God the Things That Are God's, But We Want To Live"]

[Text] Mankind is approaching the point when the question of nuclear power will have to be asked in global terms: Should we give it up altogether or should we develop it and improve it? So far, however, we have been using the "peaceful atom" regardless, and have managed to heap up masses of social, environmental, and economic problems. We must sort them out.

A "roundtable" was held at the end of May at the Russian Ministry of Ecology, where the social and environmental consequences of the activity of the nuclear complex on Russian territory were discussed. It was organized by the Social and Environmental Union. Representatives of academic and industrial science, interested ministries and departments, and the Russian and American public took part in the discussion. The Moscow "roundtable" was preceded by an international scientific and practical radio environmental [radioekologicheskiy] conference in Chelyabinsk, which examined the same problems using the example of the South Urals nuclear complex.

"Nuclear energy is a delicate form of energy," O. Kolbasov, deputy minister of ecology and national resources, noted, "but we are behaving in a barbaric fashion with it."

According to him, a legal system must be established for the use of nuclear energy in order to ensure guarantees of security. And, obviously, to fulfill its duty as best possible to people who suffered as a result of the barbarity and mistakes of nuclear industry workers and politicians.

Predictably, the greatest passions were evoked by the question of nuclear tests. Of course, representatives of social movements—Russians and Americans alike—were completely unanimous in categorically rejecting the need for such tests. The address of N. Vorontsov, ex-minister of ecology of the ex-USSR, was the most strongly-worded.

"There are pro-nuclear forces both in American society and in our own society, and they are represented by both politicians and specialists," N. Vorontsov said. "Some unselfish people in the nuclear service, and certainly mercenary people, form what must be called the nuclear mafia. And the demands of the nuclear mafias in our countries are surprisingly similar. Essentially the mafia in our country has an interest in the Americans continuing tests. Both mafias are honorably carrying out one another's orders."

After 28 October 1990, when Russia carried out the last nuclear explosion on Novaya Zemlya, when France joined the moratorium, and China, though not declaring a moratorium, did not carry out a single explosion until recently, a unique political situation was formed. It should have been actively used. But, N. Vorontsov believes, U.S. and British politicians did not want this. No important statements by major political leaders followed.

Of course not everything is yet lost. The U.S. parliament has not yet adopted a decision on this question. But the mood of the vascillating congressmen and senators does not, alas, inspire optimism: Until the question of the presidential elections is resolved, no serious antinuclear actions should be undertaken.

"You could not give our nuclear mafia a more handsome gift," N. Vorontsov told the American guests. "And under pressure from its nuclear mafia, Russia will carry out a nuclear explosion after 28 October 1992. And you will be to blame for this, because you are continuing with your explosions."

Clearly, such a policy stimulates countries that are standing on the brink of nuclear weapons testing. And they will all start with the most dangerous atmospheric explosions.

Speaking about the moral aspect of the problem, the scientist cited a case that provoked the audience's indignation:

"Immediately after the issue of putting an end to tests was raised, our former Union Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation deemed it moral to ask for a sum of money equal to the value of ten Moscow universities with all their 'contents' to pay for the repair of the tunnels on

Novaya Zemlya alone! And now the question arises: Is it moral for our country, which is receiving humanitarian aid, to spend huge resources on nuclear tests?"

Essentially no one objected to this emotional and simultaneously sober speech. Only one "opponent" doubted whether the word "mafia" was appropriate. Apparently no one intended to get involved in any particular arguments at this meeting. First of all, there was an unequal correlation of forces: It was known in advance what kind of mood the public and the scientists were in, whereas the representatives of the Ministry of Atomic Energy and the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, who might have expressed a different point of view, were in the minority. Second, it was, after all, stated: Do not cast pearls...Hence the tactics chosen by the specialists—peaceful defense, the most popular and polite answers possible to the most troublesome questions.

There a particular abundance of questions on the burial of radioactive waste. For example, why we are continuing to bring in radioactive trash from reactors we built in East Europe and the former USSR when Russian law forbids this? The only thing that was said in response was something that was known a long time ago: We are carrying out treaties that were signed in the past. But we did not find out how the situation can be changed—either by bringing the law into line with the treaties, or vice versa.

We must give due recognition to the tact of V. Gubanov, chairman of a Ministry of Atomic Energy committee, who mainly had to repulse attacks from an indefatigable audience. Skillfully maneuvering between "yes" and "no," he cleverly arrived at the conclusion that the cobbler should stick to his last. It is a good thing that we talked about this. Now let the specialists have their say, since this material is complex, and I am afraid that not everyone understands it. And after all he is right! But only on the one hand.

On the other hand, after all, the public has no divine aspirations. It is perfectly well aware of its place. And this place commits it to evoke the interest of its fellow citizens and to force them to ask themselves most natural questions: Why am I being made into a guinea pig? Who is making a sacrifice of my health and life, how, and why?

'Atomic Soldier' Recalls 'Nuclear Inferno'

LD0906181592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 9 TASS—"The ground seemed to shift and we lost our footing when the blast came. I heard a thunderous roar and a blinding fiery mushroom soared up into the sky..." This experience was indelibly impressed upon the memory of retired Mayor Aleksey Rozhkov, who took part in an atomic bomb test during the so-called Totskoye Exercises. His reminiscences, entitled "The Black Ashes", recounted by journalist Aleksey Khorev, are published in today's issue of the newspaper "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA". Rozhkov claims that "Atomic Soldiers", as participants of the tests were then dubbed, were not subjected to any medical examination after the experiment. Security-restricted and forgotten, they lived without any official assistance and were able only a short while ago to set up a committee of veterans of special risk units to ensure their own social protection.

The company of tanks, commanded by Senior Lieutenant Aleksey Rozhkov, was deployed 15 kilometres away from the epicentre of the nuclear blast. In those days even scientists knew very little about the properties of nuclear weapons and even such elementary safety precautions as deactivation of weapons, hardware and clothing, were not used. This often led to radiation illnesses, family troubles, and unfair discharges from the armed forces. Major Rozhkov withstood all the hardships that befell him, as some other of his fellow-victims.

"But was it humane to overlook the true reasons of his personal drama when deciding the future of an officer, the future of a man who was among the few first to survive a nuclear inferno?", the journalist inquires. Khorev urges the public to be "kinder and fairer" to people, whose lives were spoiled in those grim days. According to Khorev, recorded in the files of the committee of veterans of special risk units are only 40 men out of the 44 thousand that took part in the Totskoye Exercises.

Shaposhnikov Interviewed on NATO Meetings

LD0906211692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1515 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of CIS Armed Forces, by correspondent Kipras Mazheyka in Brussels; date not given; from the "Reports From NATO" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mazheyka] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, even a year ago you could not imagine yourself among these people, could you? Even I, who have worked in Brussels for seven years now, could only imagine with difficulty a Soviet or rather a Russian marshal in the company of NATO generals. Since we are standing in front of the Rose of the Winds [as heard], let me ask you; in which direction do you think the Atlantic wind is blowing at the moment?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, the Rose of the Winds can indeed be taken as a symbol. Though I would like to slightly amend your question. What you should have asked is not where the wind is blowing but what is the temperature of the Atlantic wind. I should like to say that, judging by the atmosphere, by the spirit which reigns, and by the winds which are blowing in the corridors and in the offices here and in fact at the actual conference, the Atlantic winds have a plus temperature. In other words, the winds are warm and allow us to take our coats off to hold the talks. Therefore, everything that has been organized here assists good dialogue and good monologues on a constructive basis of mutual understanding.

You are right: Naturally a few years ago—a year would be a bit of an exaggeration—I could not have dreamed or imagined that it would be possible in such a company to tackle issues so successfully and so constructively. My colleagues from NATO ask me similar questions when they come to visit me in Moscow. I believe that the general conclusion regarding the current winds and climate is that they are becoming warmer.

[Mazheyka] The situation in the country is not simple. I would describe it as tense, taking into account the Dniester region, Karabakh, etc. Nevertheless, since you have found 24 hours to go to Brussels and to hold talks with General Powell immediately on your arrival at the Brussels aiport, you must have felt the need. Could you say a few words about your meetings with Galvin and Powell and the contacts you have had here at NATO Headquarters?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, Galvin and I were colleagues to a certain extent when I served in East Germany. I have been wanting to meet him for a while now. We discussed processes under way in Germany, processes involving our troops in the territory of Germany. After all, a unique situation has arisen: Our Russian troops are stationed in a NATO country. This is generally a curious situation. So, we discussed our bilateral relations in this respect, and we have mapped out a number of measures to make our relations stronger and more normal even when the withdrawal of troops is completed.

General Powell and I discussed more specific matters relating to the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe. This is a very important issue because when the Soviet Union existed and when everything was clear-cut and when the role of the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, the Foreign Ministry, and Gorbachev were distinctly defined, they could swiftly decide on everything and that was it. Now there are a multitude of states in the European zone of the former Union and they take somewhat different approaches to the apportioning of quotas [as heard]. In general, however, I would like to say that there is no point in halting the talks because of arguing over who—Byelarus, Russia, or Ukraine—is to own some hundred tanks. The talks are in progress.

The next serious issue is the one related to the reduction of strategic and offensive weapons. The third question deals with tactical nuclear weapons and differences on this issue between Russia and the Ukraine. I want to say we have now drawn nearer than ever before to removing as many differences as we can, since there is a draft agreement between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents to resolve this issue.

We have also naturally discussed our bilateral relations. We also talked about disentangling the incident at sea connected with submarines. Mutual understanding has been found on all the issues. Second, we have of course learned better about one another.

[Mazheyka] My final question is this: You can see that as soon as the journalists saw you giving an interview to Russian television, they have joined us in big numbers. This is probably because they are not used to seeing a major Soviet or Russian chief at NATO Headquarters. Perhaps, although this is your first visit, it will not be the last one, will it? Contacts will be continued at the high military level, will they not?

[Shaposhnikov] Of course. Thank you for the attention all the journalists have given me. I hope that our contacts will continue and success will be largely attained. I also believe that contacts must be established at lower levels as well. Powell was right when he said that instead of holding sessions here—that was an exaggeration perhaps, we need these sessions, too—it is necessary to visit officers and soldiers at airfields and bases and establish contacts there.

[Mazheyka] Thank you, Yevgeniy Ivanovich.

Implications of NATO Peacemaking Role Pondered

PM1006082592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 3

[Article by Major M. Pogorelyy: "NATO Ready To Solve Our Problems. What About Us?"]

[Text] I reread several times the final communique of the NATO Council session held in Oslo last week. I kept trying to understand its essence and how it differed from the bloc leadership's other important decisions in the past. Clearly, the key point of this recent document was the phrase that henceforth one of NATO's main tasks will be "not only to safeguard its members' security, but to contribute to building a new and lasting world order in Europe." This formula essentially marks the official abandonment of the limitation of NATO's responsibilities to the territory of its member states. As the communique stated, NATO's sphere of influence now includes the entire "Euro-Atlantic region."

This region currently contains seats of tension and conflicts, including armed, local wars (and the possibility that others may flare up in the years ahead cannot be ruled out). NATO members are concerned about this. That is natural—all the peoples and countries of Europe are worried. A way out of these involved situations is being sought within the CSCE framework, in other European organizations, and at the United Nations. However, unlike them, NATO is not a forum or a debating society. It is a powerful military alliance, and its leaders' promise to do everything in their power to put a stop to attempts by others to use force to resolve disputes as a warning. The bloc indeed has considerable potential.

The plan to involve the NATO alliance in the conflict-settlement process was only approved in principle at the current session. The mechanism for this participation has not yet been worked out. From an analysis of the final communique, we can conclude that this will happen at the direct request of one of the warring factions or at the CSCE's request or else on the basis of NATO's own decision—when the situation, in its opinion, would threaten the interests of its members.

The communique was signed by diplomats. They therefore stressed their desire to secure NATO's peacemaking mission through dialogue, partnership, and cooperation. However, if this fails—in that event—the session proposed that the necessary measures be elaborated by the bloc's military organs in the course of their business. It merely emphasized that peacemaking actions should be implemented according to NATO procedures and using NATO's human and technical resources and experience. So there can be no doubt about the nature of the measures which will follow "dialogues" that have proved unsuccessful up to this point. Curiously, all the warring factions currently appealing to NATO for help all believe for some reasons that the bloc's full might will be thrown behind the defense of their interests and into "punishing" the other side. However, NATO Headquarters considers the main thing to be to safeguard itself against any escalation in local conflicts to the level of European or even world wars. So all the "squabblers" will get their "knuckles rapped." The Oslo session directly stated an intention to put a stop to manifestations of belligerent nationalism. However, the people most often to blame for this are those who inundate Washington, Brussels, and other Western capitals with requests for help.

Nowadays it is customary for us not to make efforts of our own but to ask to be fed, clothed, and shod, and to make sure that our kind uncles from East and West like us. Now Ukraine is complaining to NATO about its neighbor Russia. The Baltic states wish to conduct talks with Moscow about a Russian troop withdrawal solely through the mediation of Brussels. Most likely they will soon be scratching their heads over a solution not only to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but to the Dniester conflict too. However, there must be a sensible limit to everything. If that line is crossed, it will mean not only foregoing your own prestige and dignity, but calling into question your own national interests and sovereignty.

As for NATO, it will send troops if it is asked or if Brussels considers it necessary. The bloc's new strategy now permits this.

Black Sea Fleet Issues

Fleet Bases, Vessels Transferred to Georgia

LD0906144992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Citing official sources, the IPRINDA agency reports that the Black Sea Fleet naval bases in Ochamchira and Poti have been transferred to Georgia. Georgia has also received several category three vessels, antisubmarine vessels, and minor anti-aircraft landing craft. An order to this effect was signed by Vice Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

Black Sea Fleet Receives Ukrainian Recruits

LD0906131692 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] According to information from the duty officer at the headquarters of the Navy of Ukraine, several hundred more recruits from Ukraine have arrived at the Black Sea Fleet over the last week.

Although Admiral Kasatonov has sent his officers to recruit teams of draftees in Russia, there have been no attempts so far to bring in young recruits from abroad.

Marine Brigade Formed of Russian Ukrainians

LD0906162492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev, June 9 TASS—Many youths, called up from the territory of Ukraine to serve in units and on warships of the Black Sea Navy, who dreamed of joining the marines, will not see their dream come true, since they are Ukrainians and want to pledge allegiance to their own nation.

Thus, a marine brigade deployed in Sevastopol is now being formed of Ukrainian citizens, but only of Russian nationality. According to the press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, assistant chief of the brigade's staff Captain Lazarev asks the draftees: What oath will you take? Those who wish to pledge allegiance to the Ukrainian people are turned down.

At the same time, the press service claims, commander-in-chief of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Igor Kasatonov recently accused the Ukrainian leadership and the republican Defence Ministry of trying to provoke a split in the multinational naval force, although the Ukrainian side has repeatedly proven its adherence to the principle of forming their own armed forces on the basis of citizenship and not nationality.

Actions Termed 'Discriminatory'

LD1006103492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2223 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The squadron of Marines stationed in Sevastopol will this year be formed by citizens of Ukraine exclusively of Russian nationality.

This has been brought to the attention of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. The draftees are indignant when, for instance, the deputy chief of staff of the squadron (?Lazarev) poses them the question: What oath of allegiance are we going to take? Those who are ready to take an oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine are not enlisted in the squadron. In this connection, with these facts of the violation of human rights on the territory of Ukraine, the press center of Ukraine's Defense Ministry believes it necessary to remind that the actions of the officials of the Black Sea fleet are discriminatory and run counter to the legislation of Ukraine.

The press center also reported that recently the commander of the Black Sea fleet, Admiral Kasatonov, accused the leadership of Ukraine and its Defense Ministry of splitting the multi-national fleet. We in reality do not select servicemen according to their nationality, singled out the press center.

Aircraft Carrier Goes for Scrap to U.S. Firm

LD0906222592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Video report from Nikolayev by correspondent V. Petkov—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Petkov] The aircraft carrier Varyag awaits a decision on its fate at the Black Sea Shipyard Production Association. The ship has been built and 70 percent of its equipment installed. Attempts to agree to complete it and somehow to share the profits are under way at government level in Ukraine and Russia. However, it will not be completed now.

So the Black Sea workers are being insulted?

[I. Skripak, gas cutter team leader] They are not just being insulted. They are literally being swindled.

[Petkov] The vice president of the U.S. firm (Branko) Enterprises signed a contract to buy scrap metal from the aircraft carrier at $530 a tonne. Work to cut it into strictly agreed pieces then began. A few days ago the president of this same firm told the yard that the contract is not valid in law but since the ship has started to be cut up, the firm is willing to buy the scrap but only for $120 a tonne. [video shows aircraft carrier, workers, metal cutting, hunks of scrap]

Military

Oath Refusers To Trasfer to Other CIS States

PM0906140592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Major General Aleksandr Ignatenko, Ukrainian deputy defense minister for personnel and chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Personnel Directorate, by Colonel A. Polyakov; in Kiev, date not given: "Officers Who Refuse To Take Ukrainian Oath Will Leave Republic. Order on This To Appear in Next Few Days"]

[Text] On Friday 5 July [as published] Ostankino TV reported that the Ukrainian defense minister had issued an order on the transfer to other CIS countries of all officers who refuse to take the Ukrainian oath.

[Ignatenko] No such order has yet been issued, but it will be in a day or so. I would like to clarify the situation a bit, so that it does not look as if Ukraine is taking some kind of unilateral step in this area. Some 9,500 officers and generals have refused to take the oath to Ukraine. Some 3,500 of them have submitted requests to be discharged and allowed to settle in Ukraine. The other 6,000 are still in the Ukrainian Army. I cannot say whether they are all conscientiously carrying out their duties, but they are continuing to receive money from the Ukrainian budget. In early April this year an agreement was signed on an exchange of officers between Russia and Ukraine. But of the 3,000 Transcaucasian Military District officers we requested, we have been sent just 214 in the past two months. This is nothing other than a case of deliberately delaying the process of the creation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. I returned from Moscow, where I met with Colonel General Yuriy Rodionov, 5 June. He signed an order to transfer officers from the Transcaucasian Military District to Ukraine.

[Polyakov] Aleksandr Stepanovich, you say that the defense minister's order will soon be issued. What will it mean for officers who have not taken the oath?

[Ignatenko] It will mean that as soon as the order comes into force the officers will no longer be paid by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. They must settle all their personal affairs and leave for the district they have named in their applications. That was the agreement I reached with Colonel General Rodionov.

[Polyakov] From which regions will you primarily be drawing officers for Ukraine?

[Ignatenko] We have set three phases: first, officers from the Transcaucasus, Moldova, the Baltic, and the Northern and Pacific Fleets; second from Central Asia; and third from Russia.

Not Expelled, But 'Exchanged'

PM1006113492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[KHARKOV-NOVOSTI report: "Officers Not Being Expelled From Ukraine, But Exchanged"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Defense Ministry Press Center has refuted a report published by the mass media concerning an order of the defense ministry under which all officers who have not taken the oath of loyalty to Ukraine are to be expelled from the republic.

On 2 April, the press center reports, Rodionov, chief of the Russian Army Main Personnel Directorate, and Bezhan, Ukrainian first deputy defense minister, agreed on an exchange of servicemen. The first step by way of fulfilling the accord was a Ukrainian Defense Ministry directive under which officers who have submitted applications for a transfer and have not sworn loyalty to Ukraine may be transferred to Russia.

Expulsion Order Denied

LD0906193692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The press center of the Ukraine Ministry of Defense has denied reports circulated by the media concerning a minister of defense order according to which all officers who have failed to take an oath of loyalty to Ukraine will be expelled from the republic.

Commonwealth

Government Heads To Hold Meeting on 26 Jun

LD1006114592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The heads of government of the Commonwealth of Independent States will meet in Minsk, Byelarus, on the 26th of this month. This has been announced by the prime minister of the republic, Vyacheslav Kebich. He said he would do everything possible to strengthen the Commonwealth. In a newspaper interview, the prime minister pointed out that not all the problems existing in relations among the Commonwealth countries have yet been fully resolved but there is nothing to prevent us from having good relations and helping each other economically while remaining independent. The prime minister of Byelarus said the republic is working out a concept of bilateral relations with all members of the Commonwealth. The first such agreement will be signed with Russia at the coming meeting in Minsk.

CIS Reactions to Tightening of Borders

PM0806155492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Roundup of correspondents' reports: "State Borders Within the Commonwealth Are Rapidly Losing Their Transparency"]

[Text] We reported in IZVESTIYA (No. 130): At a government session, in the course of discussion of the question of strengthening Russia's internal affairs organs, President Boris Yeltsin made a statement that Russia will urgently strengthen its borders with CIS states. What lies behind this?

The decision was justified thus: Certain CIS states, primarily those of Central Asia, are adopting decisions on visa-free entry to and exit from their territory, and this promotes the unhampered penetration of Russia's territory by criminals and even intelligence agents. The Russian border forces within the CIS are designed to prevent this.

Our correspondent Nikolay Burbyga asked the border forces' press service for clarification, and was told that there are already border forces in certain former republics of the USSR, and in others there soon will be. However, it proved impossible to obtain more detailed comment. "There is as yet no government decision on the borders, and no one is going to risk commenting on the president's statement. It is too unfamiliar an idea—state borders within the CIS..."

Ukraine

[Sergey Tsikora report] Kiev has thus far refrained from commenting on Russia's decision to create state borders with Ukraine, and then with Azerbaijan, and a customs border with Georgia. There has been no official document from Moscow. But I was able, on a special line, to contact Colonel General V. Gubenko, commander of the Ukrainian border forces. This step on Russia's part turned out to be a complete surprise to the Ukrainian border forces leadership.

Kazakhstan

[Vladimir Ardayev report] N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, whom our correspondent contacted, deemed it unnecessary to comment in any way on Russian President B. Yeltsin's announcement on the strengthening of borders with contiguous CIS states. He noted that the said announcement not only does not affect in any way Kazakhstan's interests or its relations with Russia, but comes as no surprise to the Kazakh leader.

Estonia

[Leonid Levitskiy report] Russia's intention without delay to strengthen its borders with neighboring states is causing perplexity in Estonia. There has yet to be any official reaction to B. Yeltsin's statement. But here is the opinion of Deputy Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste.

"We would have nothing against it if Russia strengthened its real border with Estonia, which is enshrined in the 1920 Tartu peace treaty. That is the only legal document on our border. Other than that there are only administrative acts of the Soviet empire. They have no legal validity in international law. If Russia intends to strengthen its administrative border with the former Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], no way can we agree to that approach."

Byelarus

[Nikolay Matukovskiy report] People in Byelarus received Russian President B. Yeltsin's statement on strengthening the borders calmly, with understanding of the Russian state's interests.

"This event," the republic's Deputy Foreign Minister V. Astapenko says, "must be seen in the light of the actual situation. If a state exists, the state has to have borders, which should protect the interests of citizens, wherever any attempts to violate those interests may emanate from."

Moldova

[Svetlana Gamova report] The Moldovan leadership received B. Yeltsin's statement on the strengthening of Russia's borders with understanding.

"We assess Russia's step," V. Pushkashu, vice chairman of the Moldovan parliament, said, "as perfectly normal. As a sovereign state, Russia has every right to do this. Naturally, crossing from the territory of one CIS state to another will be tightened up, but that will make it possible to improve the monitoring of imports and exports of goods to one another. Transparent borders, that is, a situation in which in practice there are no borders at all, is a situation that can suit no one today, when a national currency is being introduced in a number of CIS countries, including here in Moldova."

Latvia

[Irina Litvinova report] Latvia has for nearly a year now been preparing purposefully and systematically to protect its borders, including the border with Russia. The news about the eastern neighbor was therefore received with understanding. At least, that was the reaction among those Supreme Council deputies with whom IZVESTIYA's correspondent met in parliament. But in general the report went unnoticed and there have been no commentaries or statements by politicians.

Lithuania

[Nikolay Lashkevich report] Russian President B. Yeltsin's announcement at the government session on the urgent strengthening of Russia's borders with states close to home has yet to produce any official reaction by representatives of the republic's highest legislative and executive authorities. According to information received from the information bureaus of the Supreme Council and the Cabinet of Ministers, the content of B. Yeltsin's statement on the border question is not yet known in detail, so any comment would be premature.

However, Lithuanian parliament press attache A. Azubalis noted that Lithuania will not object to the strengthening of borders, mainly in connection with the fact that citizens living in the CIS not infrequently use Lithuania for the purpose of illegally crossing borders, particularly the Lithuanian-Polish border. In A. Azubalis' opinion, strengthening border controls is mutually advantageous, and will make it possible, in particular, to combat lawbreaking more successfully.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Jun

LD1006055592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 10 Jun 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 10 TASS—Today's newspapers focus on the situation at the flashpoints of the former Soviet Union, primarily in South Ossetia where a sharp escalation of tension has been observed in recent days.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) and ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA run the text of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's address "to the peoples of Georgia, South Ossetia, Russia, North Ossetia, Statesmen, Political Leaders, and the Leaders of Various Movements", calling on them to unite in a demand for an immediate end to the "senseless bloodshed on the territory of South Ossetia".

The Russian president suggested setting up a joint multilateral commission without delay to work out practical measures and coordinated decisions on matters aimed at normalising the situation in South Ossetia, and urged the conflicting sides to cease all armed clashes for the period.

Commenting on the course of military operations in South Ossetia, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that on Tuesday "the city of Tskhinval was encircled" by units of the National Guard of Georgia and their commander—Georgiy Karkarashvili—demanded an immediate withdrawal of all armed people from the city. If this condition is not met, the newspaper quotes Karkarashvili as saying, "an assault against the city will be launched". The newspaper emphasises that a timeframe for the ultimatum's validity was not mentioned.

Analysing the situation in another region where armed confrontation is continued—the conflict between Moldova and the Dniester region—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA points out that the leadership of Moldova still views the 14th Army, which is within the conflict zone, "as an aggressor", whereas the government and the parliament of the Dniester region have succeeded, in the final analysis, "in protecting the army, soldiers, noncommissioned and commissioned officers from violence and arbitrariness".

The newspaper associates further development of events with the opening session of the Moldovan parliament as well as with the Moldovan Government's decision to resign.

An article in ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA by legal scholar Gennadiy Melkov deals with a legal status of Cossacks, who are involved in the conflict in the Dniester region, from the viewpoint of the norms of international law.

The author's opinion is that Cossacks are "volunteers, to whom all laws of war and all current norms of international law pertaining to armed conflicts apply." Melkov maintains that volunteers "undoubtedly have every right to defend the Russian population in the Dniester region, just as, for that matter, in any area of the former Soviet Union".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Aleksey Tsaryov, a people's deputy of Russia, who commented on the drafting of a law "On military duty and military service". He pointed out in particular that such a law will stipulate that the citizens of Russia "have the right to voluntarily enter military service, instead of being called up during a draft campaign, or join a state service alternative to it".

Oleg Margachev, head of the Russian Finance Ministry's department for regional forms of foreign investments, commenting in ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA on the Russian president's decree on free economic zones, pointed out in particular that "the principal aim of the decree is to reaffirm legal conditions for foreign investors and for enterprises with foreign investments."

The role of the church in the life of present-day society and the need to have tolerance and kindly feelings and revive spirituality are the main topics of an interview with Patriarch Alexiy II of Moscow and all Russia, published in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

Commenting on the first results of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to the United States and his talks with U.S. officials, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "Russian-U.S. disarmament becomes a reality while economic cooperation will remain a prospect".

The opinion of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in this respect is that "it is clear already now that with all the well-wishing attitude of the U.S. Administration to democratic changes in Russia, matters concerning specific economic cooperation between the two countries will have to be postponed until better times".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by academician Yevgeniy Velikhov of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Grigoriy Chernyavskiy, the academy's corresponding member, who examine prospects for cooperation in the establishment of a global defence system through a reorientation of the U.S. SDI programme with the utilisation of high technologies worked out in Russia's defence sector.

International Affairs

More on Kozyrev's U.S. Visit, Baker Talks

Kozyrev on Purpose of Visit

LD0906222692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is in Washington on a working visit.

[Kozyrev] The aim of the visit is to make the last preparations for the visit of Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] and to reach a precise agreement on some questions connected with disarmament and with the great political document which it is hoped, will be signed during the visit. We also have to synchronize our watches, so to speak, so that the presidents can start on prepared ground. [passage omitted]

No Agreement on Nuclear Arms

LD0906174692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1658 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Washington, 9 Jun—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev ended two days of talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He was received at the White House today by U.S. President George Bush. "We reached very good agreement on a range of issues regarding President Yeltsin's coming U.S. visit which needed to be coordinated," the U.S. foreign policy department head said at the end of the meeting. However, he added: "We were unable to reach agreement on the problem of further nuclear arms reductions." [ITAR-TASS in English at 1927 GMT on 9 June in a similar report adds: "The matter is not simply in quantities, at point are varieties of weapons, Baker said."] Nevertheless, J. Baker added, we continue with this work and will discuss our differences "to try to regulate them in the next few days."

The Russian minister said that the meeting with the President left a particular impression on him and that G. Bush "reaffirmed his support for Russia's political and economic reforms," noting that "this is in the common interests of the two countries." "As for the question of further nuclear arms reductions," A. Kozyrev stressed, "I would like to be absolutely clear that we have no intention of using these arms against the United States." He said that the problem lies in "how to dismantle the military machine which was created over the past 45 years." "Our difficulties at the talks," the minister said, were not connected with "finding a balance of mutual threats" but were brought about by a quest for a "correct, realistic, and technically feasible path for liquidating the stockpiled weapons arsenals."

Answering a question posed by TASS, the Russian foreign policy department head did not rule out the possibility of further talks with J. Baker in Moscow before the summit between the U.S. and Russian Presidents.

Kozyrev on Results of Visit

LD1006085792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korolev, Vladimir Matesh, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Washington, 10 Jun—The essence of the talks which took place in the U.S. capital was to fill with real content the current search for a specific formula of establishing friendly relations between Russia and the United States. This was stated by Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian Federation's foreign minister, on completion of his working visit to the United States.

He held intensive discussions for two days with Secretary of State James Baker on coordinating aspects of the forthcoming visit to the United States by President Boris Yeltsin, and on the problems of further reduction of strategic arms of the two countries. The talks ended in the White House, where the Russian minister was received by U.S. President George Bush.

Prior to his departure for the homeland, A. Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with TASS correspondents that the principled foundation for these qualitatively new relations between Russia and the United States was already laid at the Camp David meeting in February, and at present "practical work has begun on implementing accords reached there." Moreover, this work aims at the next summit meeting between the two leaders, which is to take place very soon. That is why, the minister continued, our conversations with the secretary of state were designed to prepare a favorable basis for it. "This is very laborious and complex work since it is necessary to get rid of, first and foremost, mountains of weapons and mistrust which have accumulated in our relations over many years." On the other hand, at present "it is not at all easy for us to set up normal interstate relations with the United States since the absence of positive experience makes itself felt," the experience which is similar, for example, to the experience this country has with partners such as Canada, Great Britain, and many others.

The talks held at the Department of State concentrated on the search for such political solutions which would allow the two presidents to arrive at relevant important decisions during their meeting. I would like to say in connection with this, A. Kozyrev continued, that "a whole range of specific accords has been reached," primarily on such issues as conversion, cooperation in space, and issues pertaining to several economic agreements, including abolishing double taxation and on problems of investments. All these documents are "almost 99 percent ready for the arrival of the Russian president here."

As for such complex problems as disarmament, I would like to point out that even in relations with friends, it is not always easy to find the best possible solutions which would suit both sides, the minister said. U.S. newspapers rushed to announce that an accord on establishing the level of warheads reduction had been reached. I must say, however, that this does not quite correspond to reality. After a meeting with President Bush, both Secretary of State Baker and I stated this at a meeting with journalists. I do not rule out that an additional round of talks with the secretary of state might be needed prior to the summit meeting, to ensure that the presidents have an opportunity to make "mature," so to speak, decisions at the meeting. We need to move on somewhat to approach such a boundary. This is possible since there is understanding with regard to positions of both counties. "Acceptable variants of the solution are required, which is of course not easy, but the road to this is open."

One must bear in mind that it is a question of "very important documents, which could not have possibly been discussed in the past." All this, according to the minister, determines the importance of the president's position, and it would be unfounded to "show any haste. It is necessary to take into account both the state's national interests and the interests of common security." Moreover, the uniqueness of the present situation is in the fact that "neither we nor the Americans can answer the following questions: What are all these armaments for, at whom are they pointed, and who is the enemy today?" When threat is eliminated, it is difficult to find a criterion for lasting security, and all this, of course, does not make the search for required solutions any easier.

Moreover, the minister added, I must put it bluntly that because of everything mentioned above, we did not at all expect any specific decision would be made at this meeting. I think, A. Kozyrev stressed in conclusion, that "a new political impetus at the level of the presidents of the two countries is needed at present to develop this process in a specific and practical way."

Returns to Moscow

LD1006090492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has returned here today after from [words as received] his working trip to the United States.

Matters concerning preparations for the forthcoming Russian-U.S. summit in the United States and a package of disarmament issues, primarily those concerning further steps to reduce strategic offensive arms, were considered during two-day talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

A large package of specific agreements was prepared in Washington for consideration at the summit (on defence industry conversion, economic cooperation, space, etc.), Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS before departure for Moscow.

As far as the problem of disarmament is concerned, the minister believes that a political impulse on the part of the presidents of Russia and the U.S. is essential at this stage to radicalise decisions in this field.

When in Washington, Kozyrev was received by President George Bush.

Talks Viewed

PM1006103192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jun 92 p 3

[A. Golts article: "Ministers 'Synchronize Watches' Ahead of Summit Meeting"]

[Text] The high-ranking diplomats who prepare important international agreements and meetings are sometimes called "Sherpas" by analogy with the guides who lead the way for mountaineering groups. Employing this image, it is possible to say that Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev's visit to Washington and his talks with U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker were the final marking out of the route for the American-Russian summit.

Numerous suppositions about what this route will be like are currently being expressed. The conversations held in the American capital offer an opportunity to do this on a solid basis. It appears that, as previously, the main place at the talks between the foreign policy department leaders was taken by political and military-political questions. During the era of confrontation, this could be explained by the desire of Moscow and Washington to cling to the edge of the nuclear abyss, it is now caused by different circumstances.

It is already obvious that for all the administration's benevolent attitude to the democratic changes in Russia, questions of specific economic cooperation between the two countries will have to be deferred until better days. In an election year, congressmen are manifestly in no hurry to adopt the plan for aid to Russia elaborated by the administration. Moreover there have been numerous reports in recent days that the IMF, in which the United States plays the leading role, is also expressing doubt about the effectiveness of the Russian reforms and, thus, about the need for possible financial injections.

In these conditions (statements by officials and press reports provide convincing evidence) the sides decided to concentrate on the fields where progress is realistic and attainable. Having gotten the Lisbon protocol signed, not without American assistance, and having obtained the status of the only nuclear power on the territory of the former USSR, Russia intends to continue down the disarmament road with America.

All the indications are that in the course of their talks A. Kozyrev and J. Baker succeeded in making progress toward a new "framework agreement" on the further reduction of strategic offensive arms. Admittedly, while expressing satisfaction at the results achieved, diplomats prefer to refrain as yet from disclosing the specific provisions of these accords. This is being successfully done for them by well-informed journalists (American, of course).

Thus, citing sources close to the administration, THE WASHINGTON POST reports that we are talking about a reduction in each of the countries' strategic nuclear arsenals to 4,700 nuclear warheads by the end of the decade. The implementation of this accord would lead to a halving of these arms in Russia and the United States. Let me remind you that the START Treaty, signed a year ago but still not ratified, provided for a 30-percent cut.

Judging by press reports, the American side is continuing to insist on the revision of individual provisions of the ABM Treaty. It needs this in order to start deploying [razvertyvaniye] the SDI system. Only in the course of the visit will we learn whether it has managed to persuade Russia of the need for such a step.

Considerable attention at the talks between the foreign policy department leaders was also devoted to finally agreeing the provisions of the main document to be signed during the visit: the "Charter of Soviet-American Relations" [as published]. Reportedly it will consist of three sections: "Democracy and Partnership"; "International Stability and Security"; and "Economics." This document will proclaim the new nonconfrontational principles governing mutual relations between the two powers. Unfortunately, it will only proclaim them. The Charter is not an international treaty in the full sense of the term. We are talking about a statement of intent, albeit one made at the highest level.

On arrival in Washington A. Kozyrev stated that the objective of his visit was to "synchronize watches" so the two presidents will be able to begin their work on a completely prepared basis. Watches have now been synchronized, it is now up to the presidents.

Context of Yeltsin U.S. Visit Examined

PM1006085992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Stanislav Kondrashov article: "Approaching Summit-92. Looking Ahead to Boris Yeltsin's Visit to Washington"]

[Text] In mid-June, Russian President Boris Yeltsin flies to Washington. This will be his fourth visit across the ocean and his first full-scale official Russian-American summit. Summit-1992, if we replace the Russian "vershina" with the English term already in use.

Almost without exception, the people around Yeltsin are novices in the field of relations between Moscow and Washington. They have nothing with which to compare this summit. Standing at its foot, they are scratching their heads as they contemplate it. Yet there is also a view from other summits, which are multiplying in considerable number. Other people have made the ascent, the main survivor being Mikhail Gorbachev. Or, for example, Anatoliy Dobrynin: Soviet ambassador to the United States for a quarter of a century, he was Sherpa and guide on dozens of occasions on the steep slopes of the diplomatic Everest. Will his vast knowledge be tapped on this occasion? There are participants and witnesses taken from among diplomats, military men, and academic experts.

Finally, there is our brother journalist who has observed previous summits and is now contemplating the present one. I joined this band relatively late, but nonetheless, I personally go back to June 1973, when, 14 years after Nikita Khrushchev, another man perfectly "suitable" for the job, Leonid Brezhnev, arrived in Washington with the requisite pomp and ceremony.

We are more caught up and spellbound by the present day than ever before. It feels like the first day of creation since our world is indeed being created anew, as it were—and in very alarming circumstances. However this is not the first day, and historical amnesia has always been a sign of irresponsibility and lack of culture, irrespective of its origin—[Stalin's] "A Short Course in CPSU History" or neodemocracy. The Bolsheviks declared the entire history of mankind to have been prehistory, the neo-Bolsheviks regard the 70-year Soviet period to have been a historical failure. If you persist with such an approach you can turn a failure straight into a black hole.

With the entitlement of some kind of veteran, I would like to place Summit-92 in its historical context, sharing my views interspersed with bidden and unbidden reminiscences.

It appears that the first full-scale Yeltsin-Bush meeting will be more of a symbolic than a practical meeting between two democracies, one of which is in the throes of destruction and creation while the other, long established, is in a presidential election year. A considerable number of friendship and cooperation documents will be signed, but no breakthrough is expected. First, there cannot be a miracle breakthrough to a stable Russian economy. Second, it is only from a distance that George Bush looks like a mountain [glyba]. On closer examination the mountain is breaking apart in the heat of the struggle for the White House, as is evidenced by the astonishing successes of the populist billionaire Ross Perot, who has suddenly exploded to the front of the stage, and the despondency in the presidential camp.

There is a gallic witticism that even the most beautiful woman cannot give more than she has. Allegorically this can be applied to the U.S. president. Bush cannot give the Russian president more than what the IMF has agreed to give and what Senators and Congressmen allocate; and they are getting nervous, looking over their shoulder at voters who, having magnanimously taken on board America's victory in the "cold war," are not disposed to be generous toward a transformed former adversary.

In a mature democracy it would never enter Bush's head to throw down the gauntlet to his parliament in the uninhibited way Yelstin appears to be doing in testing the water for yet another referendum, and thereby trying the patience of the masses, whose thoughts are by no means on referendums.

And when, sooner or later, the bill submitted by the administration "on support for freedom" in the former USSR is eventually adopted on Capitol Hill, will private investments—with government guarantees—come flooding into our country?

Speaking at a session of the American-Russian Trade and Economic Council in Moscow recently, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, government coordinator for economic cooperation, summed up his impressions as follows: "Almost all the American businessmen I have seen here have said that their ability to be partners in economic restoration (of Russia) is seriously, if not fatally, damaged by the legal and tax practices they encounter at every level of authority." The legal, tax, and property merry-go-round, the corruption of epidemic proportions—these are the things that have scared off serious American business and continue to do so, even when we have a "reform government."

Another reason why no economic breakthrough is predicted in Washington is that in the final analysis, approximately 80 percent of aid to Russia comes from Europe, from the European Community. Helmut Kohl has been saying recently that Germany, the main donor, has gone as far as it can. He will evidently say it again in Munich at the July G-7 meeting to which the Russian president has also been invited.

It is reported that while in Washington, Yeltsin will stay at Blair House, the official residence for very important guests right across the street from the White House. Brezhnev stayed there in 1973. I happened to be present during what might be described as his private conversation with pillars of the business community. Like Khrushchev back in 1959, he tempted them with our boundless expanses of untapped wealth. During the detente of the first half of the 1970's, some things did get organized: stable grain exports to the Union from the United States, Pepsi Cola in exchange for Stolichnaya vodka, numerous business contacts.

The expectations, however, were many magnitudes greater than the results—as was also the case under Gorbachev, when summit meetings were held every year and the apparently irresistible magnet for American politicians and businessmen was Moscow's resolute retreat from the strategy of confrontation and transition to a footing of "general human values." Alas we are all aware of the net result of all that high-flown speechifying: The ruble is on its deathbed and the dollar has not swarmed all over our boundless expanses, sweeping all before it.

The economists have dozens of explanations for this, but again, everybody knows the real bottom line: the disastrously low standard of state leadership and the gulf between declarations and practical action. Regrettably this is a constant—both during the transition from stagnation to perestroyka and during our present ups and downs in the course of the current total replacement of all the signposts along the road to a capitalist Russia. In principle, the Americans are prepared to acknowledge that their democracy and Russian democracy are the same, but the gulf still remains.

This is why they applaud Russian democracy while condescendingly patting it on the shoulder. When Gorbachev spoke recently in the Rotunda of the Congress building as a private honored guest, technical personnel had to be brought in so the speaker would not be struck by the absence of no longer interested legislators. Respect will start to come when raw democracy, semifinished democracy proves its fruitfulness. Democracy and order, freedom and state power are not mutually exclusive; they go together to no less an extent than democracy and human rights.

Soviet-American summits were traditionally dominated by nuclear missile problems. The most lethal manifestation of the rivalry between the two powers, the two systems, the two worlds, was the nuclear race, generating a constant and vitally important need to regularize it. If we are to avoid amnesia, it has to be remembered that peace breakthroughs were achieved by Khrushchev with Kennedy and Brezhnev with Nixon, and that Gorbachev achieved truly historic breakthroughs with Reagan (the elimination of intermediate-range missiles) and with Bush (the accord on the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons and the Soviet-American treaty reducing strategic offensive weapons by one-third). All Soviet leaders, including Stalin, despite bitter enmity with the Western democracies, did not go looking for trouble. For them the principles of peaceful coexistence were not an empty phrase but a sober assessment of the correlation of world forces, a reckoning of their people's sentiments, and—another substantial factor—a condition of the self-preservation of the totalitarian regime and their own power.

In nuclear missile matters, Gorbachev left Yeltsin a solid basis for partnership with the Americans and, moreover, the conditions for a disarmament race. However, Yeltsin suddenly met with obstacles on the part of Leonid Kravchuk and Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Had the Soviet Union continued to exist, the START Treaty signed by Gorbachev and Bush almost a year ago would probably have already been ratified. Since the USSR has been "dissolved," Ukraine and Kazakhstan, with nuclear weapons on their territory and a wish to use them to enhance their international authority, have dragged things out, laying claim one way or another to the status of nuclear powers.

Naturally the Americans could not allow this playing with fire. They did not allow it, politely but unbendingly twisting Kravhcuk's and Nazarbayev's arm, when shortly before Yeltsin, they took their turn doing the rounds of Baker's office at the State Department and Cheney's office at the Pentagon and each ascended their own summit, meeting with Bush at the White House.

Essentially the Americans, with Russia's consent, have taken on a new role—guarantor of nuclear stability in the process of the disintegration of the former rival superpower. They do not wish to lower the level of security already established in Soviet-American relations over recent years.

The question of the ratification of the START treaty is practically closed as Yeltsin's visit nears. He is getting from American hands something which had become extremely difficult or impossible for him to achieve on his own—Russia's status as the sole nuclear legal successor to to the Soviet Union.

It is obvious that at the upcoming meeting the two sides will move further along the road of deeper cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, and also conventional weapons. The radical change in the international situation makes this possible and essential. The United States is also withdrawing its troops from Europe, but more cautiously than Russia and without pressure from its allies, because its allies—unlike ours—remain allies.

You can understand Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's annoyance and envy when he says (in IZVESTIYA) that the Americans will withdraw their troops from Germany "in a sensible, orderly fashion" over 15 years, while we have accepted the "defeatist option" of doing it in four years. His position is justified—troops must be withdrawn from Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, but "without hassle and psychological pressure from any side." "They have done nothing to justify being driven out right now, almost swept out with a broom," Grachev rightly said.

Meanwhile the Russian democrats, acting in their own interests as the allies of the Baltic national patriots in their struggle against the now nonexistent Union center, also bear a share of responsibility for their present extremism and their desire to "drive out" both Russian troops and the Russian-speaking population.

Vilnius, Riga, and Tallinn now listen more attentively to Washington than to Moscow. Why should the Americans—in the same common interests of stability over the fragmented "one-sixth of the globe"—not diplomatically recommend to the leaders there that they behave more calmly and sensibly and not brandish a big stick and rile their great neighbor? It is still trying to find itself within the historically unexpected shores of a new state system, but if riled and stung, it is capable of standing up for its own interests and those of its compatriots, with the risk, moreover, of inappropriate countermeasures. After all, emotionally (and rationally) understandable irritation is already growing and spreading to those architects and implementers of Russian foreign policy who, in Sergey Stankevich's expression, "for some reason (maybe ignorance?) confuse civilized behavior with impotence."

....Each of Boris Yeltsin's four visits across the ocean has brought its own drama. The first, in September 1989, you will remember, was also accompanied by an atmosphere of scandal fueled—once again to its own detriment—by the then powers that be in the Kremlin, using PRAVDA and state radio and television to accuse the most popular critic of stagnant perestroyka of an excessive predilection for "Jack Daniels" matured Kentucky whiskey. On the same occasion a very close adviser to the U.S. President described Yeltsin, on first acquaintance, as "an intellectual lightweight," but not to his face.

Less than three years have passed, but how times have changed! In June last year, when Boris Yeltsin, who had already been elected but had not yet taken up his duties as president of Russia, made a second visit across the ocean, he was treated with due respect, but Bush still regarded Gorbachev as his main interlocutor. In January-February this year, Russia had already taken the USSR's seat on the Security Council, and Yeltsin met with Bush as the main undisputed leader in the Kremlin. Now he is the one to whom Washington sees no alternative (just like there was no alternative to Gorbachev a year ago). It is with him that hopes are linked for a favorable outcome to the stormy passage through the reefs of economic reform, an irreversible break with totalitarianism, and what Yeltsin himself calls the rebirth of Russia and the West regards as the birth as a democratic state.

Less than three years have passed, but the times have changed completely, although during the ceremonial welcome on the carefully tended South Lawn of the White House the president of Russia will be standing next to a U.S. president in the same place, on the very same special podium, which Leonid Brezhnev shared with Nixon in June 1973 and Mikhail Gorbachev twice—in December 1987 and May 1990—shared with Reagan and Bush.

Those who, like me, saw these scenes with their own eyes could not fail to detect—apart from the state aspect, the high politics—something strictly personal, almost mystical. The following is a snippet from the personal memories which did not make it into the newspaper. I remember—I swear it!—that during that solemn moment when he stood with Nixon on the podium in front of the White House a treacherous tear glinted in Leonid Ilich's eye. He was said to be a sentimental man and at 67 was already given to weeping, but what more suitable place could there have been for an unbidden tear? What could have been more exalted: He, equal to the American president himself, the head of a country equal to the United States itself in terms of might, missiles, and nuclear warheads, entitled to jointly control the world and inspire respect, trepidation, and fear.

This solemn ritual of welcome and standing while the national anthems were played and the honor guard went through its paces, standing side by side with the American president in front of the whole world, at the summit of the world, was for the top Soviet leaders, the supreme act of legitimization of their power in the eyes of the world community—and their own people. The supreme act of conquest of the secret inferiority complex which gnawed at them somewhere deep in their subconscious: I was not elected by the people, unlike the man I am standing next to. For them this was the supreme act of self-assertion—and the most dangerous beginning of their complete estrangement from the soil which bore them, from the realities from which they sprang, even from their comrades in arms, who at least in private, could honestly advise: Don't get carried away! Don't fly too high!

No, here is my mandate! Now it has been recognized here, I can fly high! I am entitled! Brezhnev—for the sake of preserving equality on the podium and in the world—threw off detente and plunged into the even more vicious arms race of the second half of the seventies and the beginning of the eighties, plunged into Afghanistan, and became the prisoner of the supremely powerful military-industrial complex. Gorbachev, admittedly, did not throw off anything, but started to look authoritarian [zaburel] in the eyes of his own people, and a gulf opened up between how he was perceived in the West and at home—a gulf which helped his rival.

Boris Yeltsin's place on the green lawn will be the same and yet different, because he is Russia's first democratically elected president and because, incidentally, he has an overt opposition challenging him. The country has changed. Its place in the world is different. New throes of destruction and creation. New scales of history which will tilt in nobody yet knows what direction. Democracy more like a gleaming attainable objective but still not working as a method. Democracy more like a future in which the outside world is more prepared to believe than is our own suffering people sated with promises of a radiant future.

Boris Yeltsin will be in a difficult position on that podium although—human frailty—he will maybe feel supreme personal satisfaction. A difficult position because, on the one hand—praise God—Russia is no longer in opposition to the surrounding, primarily the Western, world, while on the other it has not yet been admitted to this world as a mature, full member and, alas, finds itself in the position of a supplicant, a position of weakness. Of course it is no longer equal to the United States in either military or civilian strength, but the essence of the matter does not lie in this parity, which has proved historically pointless. The essence of the matter does not lie in strength as an end in itself but strength as a source of self-respect and proof of the correctness of the new path. A great country can bear lack of strength as a temporary deprivation. However, without strength, there cannot be the requisite dignity, and without dignity there cannot be a normal state. A person's ability to stand on his own feet is the guarantee of his greatness. Pushkin's words also apply in a lofty sense to a state, even in an age when anything and everything is interconnected.

In contrast with the Soviet Union, with its global ambitions to influence the other "five-sixths" of the world, the range of Russian foreign policy concerns coincides first and foremost with what used to be intra-Union policy. It is over this area that the Russian and American presidents' thoughts will range when they discuss questions of maintaining peace at their meeting. It is here—in the Dniester Region, Nagorno-Karabakh, the Crimea, Ossetia—that the new specter of the apocalypse is stalking, leaving a trail of trouble and blood in its wake, unexpectedly replacing the old specter which for so long terrified the world with the threat of global thermonuclear catastrophe.

Yeltsin Unable To Announce Kurils' Return

OW1006120292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 10 KYODO—The Russian Information Minister Tuesday said President Boris Yeltsin would be swept from power if he announced the return of disputed islands to Japan during a scheduled Tokyo visit in September.

Mikhail Poltoranin said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that at present "it is simply impossible" for Yeltsin to announce the return of the islands, which Japan claims as its northern territories.

"He can't right now go to a rostrum and say, 'tomorrow I am returning the Kuril islands to Japan' because he will be simply swept away," Poltoranin said.

The four islands off Hokkaido have been a thorny issue between the two countries since the end of World War II when they were captured by the Soviet Union's army.

The Russian minister called upon Japan to understand the situation in Russia, the fact that public opinion in Russia must "ripen."

Poltoranin made it clear that Yeltsin is not going to postpone his visit to Japan because of a Russian referendum later this year. "This is a normal situation. Japanese people realize pretty well what Yeltsin can and what he cannot say," he said.

Poltoranin also said that a referendum on private ownership of land will be held in Russia most likely "sometime in October."

"If we fail to solve this question our reform will collapse," he said.

Poltoranin also said the Russian people will vote on a new Constitution to decide whether Yeltsin should be given strong executive powers to carry out reforms.

Yeltsin first suggested a referendum on the draft Constitution in early April at the congress of Russian People' Deputies.

Referring to the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Poltoranin, recently appointed vice-premier of Russia, said the Commonwealth is not viable and can not survive.

He said he is pessimistic about the future of the Commonwealth because "it is trying to restore, recreate that former Union built by Communists who made different civilizations live under one roof."

The Union was replaced in December 1991 with the Commonwealth, made up of 11 of the 12 former Soviet Republics.

Poltoranin said the CIS countries "have fallen ill with independence," but said that after they have had this "national measles we will again begin to unite."

Poltoranin expressed certainty that the CIS will undergo changes and Russia's interests will concur with the Ukraine's.

He criticized Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk as "bathing in nationalism," saying that in 3-4 years "this dust will sink" and Russia, the Ukraine, Byelarus and a number of other republics...will be something single."

"We will be in the European Community. This is the future of our union," he said.

Yeltsin Officially Invited to G-7 Summit

*LD1006114192 Berlin ADN in German
1119 GMT 10 Jun 92*

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—On 10 June, Russian President Boris Yeltsin received the official invitation to attend the Munich summit of the seven leading industrial states (G-7) at the beginning of July. It was brought to him by Horst Koehler, state secretary in the Federal Finance Ministry, as the German Government's official in charge of preparing the summit. The West is now supporting the reforms in Russia more actively, Yeltsin said at the beginning of a meeting with Koehler.

It was learned from sources close to the president that the summit is to adopt a supplementary document on aid to Russia. It is expected that Yeltsin will address the summit participants on 8 July.

U.S. Officer Visits Moscow, St. Petersburg

*PM0806084792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 3 Jun 92 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "On Official Visit"]

[Text] A U.S. Coast Guard delegation headed by Admiral J. Kime, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, paid an official friendly visit to Moscow and St. Petersburg 30 May through 3 June at the invitation of the Border Troops Command.

During the meetings which Adm. J. Kime had with Colonel General I. Kalinichenko, commander in chief of the Border Troops, and with Rear Adm. N. Ilyev, chief of the Central Maritime Administration of the Committee for the Protection of the State Border, questions of the further development of businesslike cooperation between the sides were discussed in a constructive atmosphere.

Grachev Views 14th Army Withdrawal From Moldova

*LD1006103392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0253 GMT 10 Jun 92*

[Interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev by correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Chemodanova] During his recent tour of Altay, Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised the public that the 14th Army would be withdrawn from Moldova to Russia. Pavel Sergeyevich, how justified is this step, in your view?

[Grachev] The withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of all foreign states is a legitimate and predecided matter. The president's statement on the withdrawal of the 14th Army, in particular, does not mean that orders will go out immediately and that the troops will leave for Russia. Things do not happen that way. An army is not something that you can just install or remove. An army is, first and foremost, made up of people. It is from the standpoint of the human factor that we will view the issue of withdrawal of the 14th Army.

How do I see the process? Well, first, it is necessary to set up an expert group at an intergovernmental level, by mutual agreement between Russia and Moldova, to draft the documents that should define the status of the temporary stationing of the 14th Army on the territory of Moldova, and the obligations and guarantees for servicemen and their families in all spheres of life and work, the obligations of servicemen and their families to strictly observe the laws of the Republic of Moldova, and other issues. Once the documents have been worked out and they have been discussed and endorsed at sessions of the governments and Supreme Soviets, there must be a top-level meeting to sign these documents.

Once the presidents have signed the relevant documents, evidently these issues ought to be discussed in detail.

What are they? I would think they are the stages for the withdrawal, where to withdraw to, the creation of conditions to ensure there is full housing provision, first and foremost, for officers and warrant officers, barracks for the soldiers and sergeants, a procedure for financing the troops subject to withdrawal, conditions for sale of part of the arms and equipment to the Moldovan side, the conditions for handover, and many other issues.

We do not have the right to forget the Russian who will remain in Moldova to live. We are simply obliged to ensure a civilized life for them, with guarantees. That is, there must be reliable political stability, and firm guarantees from the Government of Moldova to this part of the population.

Talks with Ukraine will be needed concerning the transit of troops being withdrawn via its territory.

[Chemodanova] As I understand it, this is a long process. It is not a question of a year, for example. How do you imagine it, as the minister?

[Grachev] Yes, you are right, it is a long process, since this process will take up not just the period of the talks, but also the practical actions. In my view, if it is not rushed, this process may take something like five or six years.

[Chemodanova] Pavel Sergeyevich, couldn't the situation arise where you will be forced to adopt a decision, and the government will be forced to adopt a decision to withdraw the Army in a shorter period of time?

[Grachev] I cannot exclude the possibility that we will be artifically pushed to withdraw the 14th Army to Russia's territory immediately. However, I would like to caution that pushing for immediate withdrawal is simply—well, it is not possible. Simply driving us from the territory of the Dniester region by force is an uncontrolled process, armed confrontation, something we must not allow under any circumstances, for the sake of our people.

Official on Latvian Treaty, Human Rights

OW0906115792 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1114 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Igor Porshnev and others from "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In view of the violations of human rights in Latvia and discrimination against citizens who do not speak Latvian, the Russian Foreign Ministry will urge the CSCE to consider the issue, Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev announced on Monday [8 June] during the parliamentary hearings devoted to preparations for the ratification of the Treaty on the Principles of Inter-State Relations between Russia and Latvia.

Shelov-Kovedyayev welcomes the ratification of this treaty as it will allow the Russian foreign ministry to maintain the dialogue on the protection of the rights of ethnic Russians more successfully. Meanwhile, all questions pertaining to the ethnic Russians' legal status are regulated by the Latvian laws.

Last December the Russian parliament put off the ratification of this document "till the problem of violations of the ethnic Russians' rights is solved".

On Monday [8 June], the Latvian embassy in Moscow circulated a statement expressing hope for an early ratification by Russia of the treaty which was "ratified by Latvia on January 15, 1991," BALTFAX reports.

"Most of the deputies and the leaders of the Latvian parliament oppose the initiatives advanced by the MPs campaigning for the denunciation of the treaty, and come out for strict observance of this treaty," the statement says.

Rutskoy on Argentina Talks; Discusses Trade

LD1006082592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0743 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yevgeniy Aleksyev and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Buenos Aires June 10 TASS—Russia and Argentina have agreed to set up a joint working team at governmental and parliamentary level to draw up an all-embracing treaty on cooperation and partnership, which is to be signed at summit level. This is the main result of Vice President Rutskoy's Tuesday's [9 June] talks with President Carlos Menem of Argentina and Minister for Economy Domingo Cavallo. The Argentinian president expressed his country's political will to cooperate with Russia in all areas.

Addressing a brief press conference after these meetings, Rutskoy stressed that the two sides have shown their will to go over from "high-level tourism" to concrete deeds. "In view of Russia's and Argentina's potentials," Rutskoy stated, "there is a real chance to promote commercial and economic relations between the two countries. He said that President Yeltsin had charged him personally with the task of supervising the drafting of documents needed to expand cooperation with Argentina and other Latin-American countries.

During Rutskoy's meeting with Cavallo, the sides pinpointed a whole line of concrete ventures which could increase the Russian-Argentinian trade many times over. They could include several hydropower projects, river and ocean bottom deepening works in Argentina, modernisation of farming, including the formation of agroindustrial corporations in the southern part of Russia, space exploration and space communications, fishing with the use of Russian ships, flying the Argentinian flag and based in Argentinian ports, the use of advanced technologies, possessed by the Russian military industrial complex, to promote the national economies of the two countries. Rutskoy said that a huge economy could be achieved if Russia was to fulfill Argentinian commitments to supply raw materials and power-carriers to Europe in exchange for similar Argentinian services in the Western Hemisphere. On behalf of President Yeltsin, the Russian guest reaffirmed his country's readiness to cooperate in all areas of interest to Argentinian businessmen.

Both sides believe that an interbank agreement could contribute to the expansion of bilateral cooperation. It would give many Russian commercial banks a chance to freely settle their accounts with Argentinian partners, including in national currencies. Russia moved to conclude an agreement on the protection of investments, repatriation of profits, avoidance of double taxation, etc. A state agency for insuring export transactions will shortly be set up in Russia. Cavallo said that the best form for finding mutually profitable areas of cooperation today was to launch joint ventures with the participation of Argentinian and Russian private business.

Rutskoy reaffirmed Yeltsin's invitation to Menem to visit Russia. The latter asked the vice president to transmit a similar invitation to Yeltsin.

On the same day, Vice President Rutskoy laid a wreath at the monument to Argentina's national hero San-Martin. During his visit to the National Congress, he met acting speaker of the Argentinian Senate Eduardo Menem. Addressing members of the foreign affairs commissions of the two chambers of the Congress, Rutskoy outlined the concept of Russia's external policy and described the reforms under way in his country. He urged the congressmen to help implement the plans for Russo-Argentinian cooperation.

Today Rutskoy will fly to the province of Cordoba, where he will visit several agro-industrial complexes.

Talks With Estonia End in Claim, Counterclaim

PM0806145792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Leonid Levitskiy report: "Difficult Dialogue Between Estonia and Russia"]

[Text] Tallinn—The third meeting of Russian and Estonian delegations has ended. The first documents have at last been signed: a consular agreement, an agreement on legal aid, and a transport agreement.

All three documents are, of course, important for normal relations between states and for their citizens. Nevertheless, the delegations parted—and this could be felt at the news conference—with relief. Diplomatic equanimity was blown apart by the military problem. The delegations' approaches to it are too different. The Estonian delegation insists on completion of the troop withdrawal this year. The Russian delegation proposes starting it in 1994 and completing it in 1997. Or, in order to bring the deadlines forward, Estonia must reimburse the costs of a fast redeployment. Furthermore, each side considers that its country owns military property. This is also holding up units in Estonia. For instance, for several days now the Chemical Troops brigade, ready for the march to Russia, has not received the Estonian Government's consent. It is being requested to leave hardware and equipment behind.

In its statement, the Estonian delegation accused Russian diplomats of having fallen under the diktat of generals.

The Russian side naturally responded with a counterstatement. It refuted the claim about the diktat of generals. In a short space of time, the statement notes, 12 units and subunits have been withdrawn. However, the Estonian delegation's unilateral act "severely complicates the prospect of holding talks on military questions."

Yastrzhembskiy on Baltic Troop Withdrawal

PM0806142992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Deadlines for Troop Withdrawals From Latvia and Lithuania Still Not Agreed"]

[Text] "Russia's refusal to fix specific dates for the withdrawal of its troops from the Baltic states could prove to be more dangerously explosive than everything that can be observed in Yugoslavia"—this is British Foreign Secretary D. Hurd's opinion, which he expressed the other day in a conversation with British journalists.

However, according to Russian diplomats such statements by politicians in various states are probably being made on the basis of distorted or incomplete information.

An IZVESTIYA correspondent put a question to S. Yastrzhembskiy, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, on the results of the official talks with the Lithuanian and Latvian delegations that have just ended in Moscow. The Lithuanians, he said, claim that the troop withdrawal question is an absolute priority question for them and that other questions "can wait, however important they may be." However, despite the preliminary accords, the Lithuanian delegation did not include the necessary experts and the talks were not attended by C. Stenhiavicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, and a number of other senior officials.

Nevertheless, sessions of three expert groups for troop withdrawal questions took place on the first day, at which progress was made on draft agreements. It is proposed to send a group of military experts to Lithuania after 10 June for a prolonged period to complete the draft troop withdrawal agreement.

At the talks with Latvia, Yastrzhembskiy went on to say, the Russian side agreed that attention must be focused on the troop withdrawal question. The Latvians were given a general timetable for the phased withdrawal from Latvian territory of the armed forces that are under Russian jurisdiction. In accordance with this document, the troop withdrawal, which, incidentally, started in March 1992, must be implemented in phases and completed no later than 1999. Our timetable shows that the withdrawal of the main grouping will start in 1995, but after the troop withdrawal from Germany has been completed and the necessary infrastructure has been created in the new deployment locations. In the first phase, in 1992 78 military units and facilities are to be withdrawn. In the second phase (1993-1994) 76 military units and facilities are to be withdrawn and weapons stocks, ammunition, and materiel are to be removed. In the third stage 255 units will be withdrawn.

Committee Examines Baltic Deployment Issue

LD0706021192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The personnel of the troops of the Northwestern Group of Forces is on the brink of social and military-political explosion because of the violation of human rights, the introduction of a 100 percent customs duty on the removal of property from the Baltic republics, the nationalization of the servicemen's apartments, etc. This was stated by Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet committee for defense and security affairs, in an interview with the Baltic News Service.

He announced that the committee has thoroughly examined the situation in the Northwestern Group of Forces and has recommemded that the Russian Security Council examine without delay, a set of problems concerning deployment on the territories of the Baltic states. He stressed the necessity of speedily defining the status of troops deployed there as foreign troops on the territory of foreign states.

According to him, the stand of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this issue has been severely criticized. Demands have been voiced that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should take a tougher stand than it is at present in defense of the interests of the servicemen of the Northwestern Group of Forces until their complete withdrawal from the Baltic states. [passage omitted]

Khasbulatov Arrives in Saudi Arabia for Talks

LD0806032192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2310 GMT 7 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 June—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, arrived in the Saudi Arabian city Jeddah on 7 June for a four-day visit. The program for his visit to the Kingdom has not been finalized because the leadership of the country is very occupied in connection with the seasonal pilgrimage of Moslems to their holy places in Saudi Arabia.

According to information that your ITAR-TASS correspondent heard from those accompanying the chairman of the Russian parliament, he will be received by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who is presently in Jeddah. He has met with a delegation from the Saudi Foreign Ministry. There are to be meetings with representatives of business circles in the Kingdom.

Meets Business Community

LD0906130792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi June 9 TASS—Russian parliament chief Ruslan Khasbulatov, who is now in Saudi Arabia, has been invited by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud to visit the holy places of Islam, where more than 13,000 Muslims from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States have arrived these days, as his personal guest. Khasbulatov leaves for Mecca on Tuesday [9 June] afternoon.

Russian parliamentarians, led by the parliament chief, met with representatives of the local business community in Jeddah on Monday [8 June]. Particularly fruitful, in their view, was a conversation with Saleh Abdullah Kamel, president of the investment and industrial corporation Belle al-Baraka group, who suggested establishing a school in Russia with the assistance of Saudi specialists to train young Russian entrepreneurs.

The delegation members also regard as interesting, a Saudi suggestion to send labour, social and economic legislation experts to Moscow for consulting in the drafting of laws with a view to furthering economic reforms in Russia.

On the same day, during the delegation's talks with the leadership of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber President Ismail 'Abu Da'ud suggested arranging an exhibition of Russian goods in the Kingdom to stimulate trade between the two countries.

Meets With King

PM0906075592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 1

[S. Drozdov report: "R. Khasbulatov Could Become Hajji"]

[Text] Ruslan Khasbulatov, speaker of the Russian parliament, began his weekend in Istanbul and finished it in Jeddah, where he was the personal guest of the king of Saudi Arabia.

The king himself and the crown prince, along with business and political circles in the kingdom, expressed a readiness to meet with Ruslan Imranovich.

Khasbulatov was one of the million Muslim pilgrims who have come to Mecca to visit the shrine of Islam and carry out the hajj ritual. It is not yet known whether Ruslan Imranovich will carry out the ceremony, but a visit to Mecca is part of his plans. So Khasbulatov has a real chance to return to Russia as Ruslan-hajji.

Impact of Free Energy Prices on CIS Viewed

PM0506091992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[Boris Lagutenko article: "Republics' Policy Increasingly Scents of Oil"]

[Text] Russia's energy potential within the CIS (percentage share in terms of the most important indicators):

Russia		2d place	3d place
OIL:	reserves 85	Kazakhstan 9	Azerbaijan 2
	extraction 90	Kazakhstan —	Uzbekistan —
	refining 65	Ukraine 13	Byelarus 8
GAS:	extraction 75	Turkmenia 12	Ukraine 5
COAL:	reserves 72	Ukraine 16	Kazakhstan 10
	extraction 55	Ukraine 26	Kazakhstan 19
COKING			
COAL	extraction 47	Ukraine 37	Kazakhstan 15

The liberalization of prices for energy sources and oil products, all the signs suggest, will help resolve the economic contradictions between the republics of the former Union. It is no accident that in some of them, liberalization has met with support, in others—with understanding, while in still in others, it has been submitted to under compulsion.

The USSR occupied leading places in the world in the production, export, and consumption (waste) of energy sources. Virtually free oil and gas were, only a decade ago, the basis of the ephemeral Brezhnevite prosperity. Nowadays, all the republics are going though different stages of an energy crisis. The notorious energy program with its energy-saving technologies has been quietly laid to rest. The largest energy repositories—Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine—themselves have shortages of energy resources, and yet the streets are still being heated throughout the season. "Surpluses" go for hard currency export....

However close the cooperative links are between the republics, they turn out to be by no means binding.

It turns out that imports account for only an estimated 16 percent of Russia's finished products (at the other end of the scale is Armenia, for which the figure is 31 percent), and in 1990 Russia exported only 11 percent of its finished output (from Azerbaijan the figure was 27 percent). In a hypothetical situation, if Russia were left without commodity exchange with the CIS and the Baltic, it could produce 65 percent of the finished products it needs, or as much as 86 percent if imports from further afield were included. In complete isolation, Ukraine could probably maintain only 15 percent, Kazakhstan—27 percent, and Byelarus—4 percent of finished products, while Moldova, Lithuania, Estonia, and Turkmenia would keep approximately....0 percent each. Russia provides 67 percent of Ukraine's finished products, whereas Ukraine provides Russia with only a little over 1 percent....

Although Russia is extremely dependent on imports of food and light industry products from its near neighbors, it has a net positive balance (whereby exports exceed imports) thanks to trade in energy sources and raw materials. Even at the old prices. Russia, in effect, will remain in the long term, an energy and raw material adjunct to other republics, especially Ukraine, Moldova, Byelarus, Georgia, and the Baltic. In return for this, albeit humiliating, nevertheless in its way equitable position, in the world economy (the international division of labor) Russia earns convertible currency.... And from the CIS? "Suitcase" rubles.

This is a clear case of covert reinvestment in Russian property in the form of ruble intervention from the republics. Incidentally, this is not necessarily a conscious action, since they are bound to Russia, above all, through the ruble area. In effect, economic cataclysms in the CIS countries are being softened at Russia's expense in the form of indirect, gratuitous aid owing to the absence of parity in prices in trade with our near neighbors.

According to expert assessments, Russia's losses (on the balance between losses sustained through the depression of prices on deliveries in comparison with world prices, and profits) in 1990 from "external" trade in energy sources with its near neighbors amounted to approximately 900 billion rubles [R]. Approximate losses for 1992 can be determined only after the event—at the end of the year—because of the unpredictable growth of prices and.... trade volumes.

The transition to world prices in trade with the former USSR republics will lead to a positive balance of not less than $10-15 billion; whereas in the area of energy resources the balance will be at least $50 billion, including $9-10 billion with Ukraine, $4 billion with the Baltic, $5 billion with Byelarus, and $1 billion with Georgia. There will be a balance of next to zero with Kazakhstan, [the rest of] Central Asia, and Azerbaijan (I will not repeat the tiresome mistake, of which members of the government are guilty, of transposing nonconvertible "suitcase" rubles into "greenbacks," at a speculative rate, of course).

The resources left over from the country's "unified national economic complex" were divided in a haphazard way—according to the "right of primogeniture": Ownership was assigned to the state on whose territory the resources happened to be found. Well, of course, the deposits were put there by the Good Lord, but what about the infrastructure? It was created expressly to supply the needs of specific republics, using "the whole people's" money. If the "unified and mighty" [USSR] had not existed, the network of gas and oil pipelines would quite certainly have had a completely different configuration! Yet the enterprises are still there: oil and gas fields, pits, open cast mines....

Of course, Russia will remain a world energy giant. The world's biggest monopoly enterprise—the "Gazprom" concern—accounts for 13 percent of the world production of gas and 37 percent of world gas exports.

However, only the CIS countries are an unlimited, guaranteed market for the sale of its low-quality energy products, for example, oil products. Although Russia supplies 85 percent of its own coal, it depends on the delivery of anthracite and coking coal from Ukraine, lignite from Kazakhstan, and petroleum products (produced from its own oil) and electricity from Estonia and Lithuania. Moreover, in view of Russia's vast area and the technological dependency of its regional energy complexes on the CIS countries on its borders, the disruption of energy links specifically with Kazakhstan will have a cataclysmic effect on the energy situation in some regions.

No complaints are being heard from Kazakhstan itself. Liberated from the Gosplan [state planning committee] quota system, energy cooperation with Kazakhstan has the most favorable prospects. Cooperation between Byelarus and Russia remains extremely profitable: Russian oil is delivered to Byelarusian oil refineries, petroleum products are sent back to Russia.

It is not just economic gains that energy cooperation between CIS countries brings to Russia. It is, without exaggeration, becoming one of the most important elements in the geopolitics. Energy links between CIS countries pass across Russian territory. Consequently they can be monitored and regulated. However, Russia itself has almost been cut off from hard currency consumers—oil and gas pipelines to the world energy markets cross "foreign" territory; consequently they too can be monitored and regulated. Most oil trade in the USSR was conducted through Ventspils, in Latvia, and Novorossiysk. Thus Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg will not be able to relieve the situation in the near future. In Ukraine, the question is already being raised (reasonably enough) of paying transportation costs for Russian freight in "greenbacks"....

World politics abounds in conflicts centered around the energy problem. Well, is everything tranquil in Russia? Let us bear in mind that regions which have the highest production of energy sources but a comparatively low standard of living as a rule coincide with regions in which conflicts with a national or separatist hue develop.... Western Siberia produces 85 percent of Russia's gas, 70 percent of its oil, and around 40 percent of its foundry coal, and the standard of living? Especially in the Khanty-Mansiyskiy and Yamalo-Nenetskiy Okrugs.... A somewhat similar situation is characteristic also of Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and Chechnya.... These conflicts savor of oil. So politics really are determined by economics.

Gasprom To Supply Gas to Ukraine, Europe

LD1006033392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The state concern Gasprom has adopted a program which will provide supplies of gas to Ukraine and European consumers this year and the first half of next year. It is planned, by the end of December, to commission several gas pipelines, compressor stations, and underground storages for the blue fuel.

The Mostransgas and Lentransgas associations, as well as enterprises in Ukraine and Byelarus, which formerly comprised part of the concern, have been involved in implementing the program.

Former U.S. President Nixon Meets Burbulis

LD0306194292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 3 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—About 80 per cent of Russia's population, who do not want to return to the past, make up the basis for the radical economic reform and support Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis said at a meeting with former U.S. President Richard Nixon on Wednesday [3 June].

Burbulis said there is a group of republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States which realise they need act together in order to pull through. This group, which includes Russia, Kazakhstan, Byelarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, is being opposed by another group which prioritises the move for independence, Burbulis said.

Burbulis said difficulties in relations between Russia and Ukraine will remain in the near future, adding that Russia will make its best to prevent them from assuming a dangerous character.

Comments on Foreign Investment

PM0906111892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Mikhail Kozhukhov report: "R. Nixon: At Home on Tsvetnoy Boulevard"]

[Text] "The good news: There are more goods. The bad news: Prices have gone up," observed Richard Nixon, visiting Moscow's Central Market the other day, where, AP asserts, the old inhabitants recognize him and even give him wine and roses according to the Slavic and Caucasian custom.

This is obviously nice for the guest, but not surprising: The former U.S. president is very much at home on Tsvetnoy Boulevard. Since 1959, when he first came to the USSR and was not at all inclined to be complimentary, he has been there eight times in all.

Now, coming to Moscow as president of the Fund for Democracy and Development, he was saying only good things. For instance, that success for the reforms in Russia will, without fail, inspire the democratic movement throughout the world, whereas their failure would be a gift to those whom the ex-president called "hardliners." He also, gratifyingly, expressed moral support for the free press, without which democracy would be impossible.

However, what everyone liked even more was the following calculation by the guest, who promises to help attract private investments to Russia from abroad. In the first 18 months, he said, $100 billion could be invested in Russia, in the next six months a further 200 billion, and in the next six months $400 billion.

True, these figures were followed by the important word "if," directed not so much to all Russians in general as to those who write the laws for them. Dollars, R. Nixon said, could be invested if an "environment" is created—political stability, plus legal foundations. Russia's future is in the hands of Russia's people, the ex-president never tired of repeating, realizing, of course, that the Moscow Central Market is in better condition than the Russian market. So in the calculations cited above the conditional mood is more important even than the billions that could be attracted into Russia: "Could be" does not mean "will be."

Press Secretary on Yeltsin Meeting

LD0406200692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 4 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 4 TASS—"I once said at a meeting with press that Yeltsin is an outstanding Russian state leader. Today I say he is a state leader of world class", U.S. ex-President Richard Nixon told journalists after his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [4 June].

According to Nixon, American businesses can invest 100 billion U.S. dollars in Russia within the nearest 18 months. Later these figures can reach 200 and 400 billion U.S. dollars in the subsequent three years. Nixon stressed that he meant private investments. He also told journalists that the Western aid package worth 24 billion is very important, but real money will come from private investment.

Yeltsin's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that at his meeting with Nixon, Russian president said that now is the most crucial moment for Russian reform. Russia will have to collect all its strength in order to overcome the difficulties.

Joint Western Bank Group's Restraint Viewed

PM0806084592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Mikhail Kozhukhov report: "Bankers Take Their Seats in Moscow, But Refrain From Investment"]

[Text] A few days ago, six European banks from Belgium, Great Britain, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, and Portugal united in the "Inter-Alpha" group opened a joint office in Moscow and held a press conference.

The European financiers certainly do not conceal the fact that they regard Russia and the other CIS countries as "emerging markets" which promise them considerable dividends, but in the distant future. For the time being, figuratively speaking, they intend to drink their tea without sugar. In the words of W. Scherpenhuizen Rom, chairman of the NMB Postbank Group (the Netherlands), the activity of "Inter-Alpha's" Moscow office will, for the time being, be limited to intermediary and consultation services. The banking group intends to offer the maximum support to clients who, as W. Rom put it, "are spreading their wings to fly to the CIS." In a country where in a short time hundreds of banks have formed, it is extremely important for businessmen to know with which ones they can deal if they are not to have the aforementioned wings clipped. In addition, "Inter-Alpha" is ready to share with Russians the subtleties of the banking business, since it considers the ability to handle finances the cornerstone of economics.

The bankers quite amicably tell the Russian authorities to sweat over this cornerstone if they really hope to attract foreign capital for the revival of the country. This "homework," in the Dutch financier's opinion, includes not only making the ruble convertible, but also changing the administrative and criminal law, in particular, adopting laws on the protection of intellectual property. Western producers must have confidence that necessity will be the mother of invention for Russian entrepreneurs and will induce them to abandon the habit of adopting without payment, the ideas and trade names of others, as often happens today.

"I am also worried by the way that the excesses which are taking place in the Russian economy are being put down to imperfections of the market mechanism as such," V. Rom remarked.

This delusion threatens to dampen the enthusiasm of potential investors, he supposes, clearly hinting that we owe these excesses not so much to the market, as to our own clumsy handling of it.

However, the biggest failings are to be found in banking activity in Russia itself, "Inter-Alpha" believes. As far as could be understood from the Dutchman's diplomatic formulas, the rules we have adopted in book-keeping are not only impossible to make out, but even make it impossible to understand, for example, who precisely will be liable for a deal that goes bust.

The theme—which the West finds paradoxical—of the situation regarding the Foreign Economic Bank, which has not declared itself bankrupt but has frozen accounts, was also inevitably broached at the press conference. R. Vermeyren [name as transliterated], managing director of the Belgian "Creditbank," remarked that this has sown a mass of doubts among the financial world: Will the Russians be able to repay debts, or even the interest on them, and if so, when?

While politely paying tribute to the enticing but distant prospects of the market emerging in the expanses of the CIS and to the reforms, which are proceeding "in the right direction," the bankers did not abandon their doubts: Today there are no possibilities for direct private investments in the Russian economy. This was laconically stated in English by C. Winter, chairman of the "Royal Bank of Scotland."

In short, the bankers from West Europe are refraining for the time being from participating in building the new Russia, although they are taking up ringside seats in Moscow. On the whole it is possible to understand the bankers: They want guarantees which today no one can give them. We, of course, can make do without their advice. Without advice, yes, but hardly without money.

Situation of Russian Troops in Germany Viewed

LD0406201492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent V. Kondratyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The German military consider that the continuing withdrawal of our forces from the former GDR is favorably affecting the attitude towards those servicemen who remain. Above all, there have been considerably fewer complaints over the noise from combat aircraft. Training flights have already been restricted by 40 percent. This year they are to be reduced by a further 25 percent.

Contacts between the population and our servicemen are becoming much more informal than back during the time of the GDR. German concerns such as Mercedes are inviting them along for practical experience and organizing management courses for them. They see them, so to speak, as multipliers of cooperation after their return home. True, our command considers that the most suitable people for such courses are needed to organize the withdrawal of the forces.

The German side notes the continuing fairly high level of discipline in our Army. In their view, this is connected with the fact that 80 percent of their pay comes as hard currency and service in Germany is regarded as a privilege. This is the reason for the relatively low number of deserters. Two hundred and fifty persons have asked for asylum in Germany. Incidentally, to date none of them has received it. Roughly the same number have left the places where their units are stationed and gone home.

German Liaison Officer Cited

PM0806145192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jun 92 p 1

[Colonel V. Markushin report: "Western Group of Forces Withdrawal: Press Conference in Berlin"]

[Text] Major General Kh. Ferch [name as transliterated], the FRG Government's officer for liaising with the Western Group of Forces, held a press conference in Berlin during which he covered issues connected with the presence and withdrawal of the Western Group of Forces.

Among other things, he said that the Russian side is sticking to its treaty obligations very precisely. Given the situation in Russia, some corrections are being made to the timetable for withdrawing the troops, but the main bulk of the withdrawal as regards personnel, combat hardware, and materiel is being strictly complied with.

Regarding the scale of the military activity of the Western Group of Forces, General Kh. Ferch stated that, according to his information, this has been cut back to an even greater extent than is stipulated under the terms of the treaty. Battlefield training is being conducted primarily at battalion level, involving the participation of about 1,000 men. Congestion on the roads has decreased sharply. Whereas the Western Group of Forces together with the National People's Army, regularly used about 11,000 km of routes to move their combat hardware around, at the present time, the total length of these routes does not exceed 1,400 km. The frequency of flights by Western Group of Forces aviation has decreased by 40 percent, and Russian airmen, according to Ferch's information, have fewer hours' flying time than German airmen.

Regarding the environmental situation, the government's liaison officer said that useful cooperation is being achieved in some areas. For example, in the matter of trash recycling where reduced tariffs have been established for Russian units. According to Ferch, "the ecological awareness of the Western Group of Forces has increased noticeably of late." Nonetheless, the German side will continue with its detailed assessment of the damage caused by the Soviet military presence. Touching on the forest fire situation, General Kh. Ferch stated that he has heard no reports that any one of the fires started through the fault of the Western Group of Forces.

Ambassadors Discuss Regional Conflicts

OW0906213692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing in Moscow Tuesday [9 June] concerning the Karabakh conflict, the Russian Ambassador to Armenia Vladimir Stupishin said he hoped the clashing sides would reach a compromise "on the basis of every peoples right to self-government". Speaking at the same briefing, Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Walter Shonia said that such a compromise is impossible if the territorial wholeness and inviolability of borders is not honored.

Shonia said that he has good, friendly relations with Stupishin and will do everything to insure that Azeri and Armenian relations assume a similar character.

"IF" [INTERFAX] learned that Stupishin will leave for Yerevan soon where he will present his credentials to Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan June 22-23.

The Russian Ambassador to Moldova Vladimir Plichko said at the meeting with journalists that terms used by the media like "Russia and Moldova at war" does not reflect the true relations between the two nations. He said that "it is not too late to find a peaceful solution" to the Dniester conflict, although the actual processes in Moldova must be considered.

The head of the Russian Delegation to talks with Ukraine Yuriy Dubinin supported establishing regular personal meetings between the leaders of both nations, and forming a permanent negotiating mechanism which, he hopes, will also facilitate the Dagomys summit between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk (no date has been set for the meeting). Dubinin said that major preparations are underway for the Russian-Ukrainian summit and all efforts are being made to insure that the relations between the two states are "harmonious, cooperative, and friendly", but at the same time he did not mention a single topic on the agenda for the meeting.

Churkin Receives Azerbaijani Ambassador

LD0706082292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's deputy minister for foreign affairs, today received Gadzhiyev, Azerbaijan's plenipotentiary representative to Moscow. Issues in Russian-Azerbaijani relations were discussed, in particular the position of the Russian-speaking population. The sides also exchanged views regarding the problem of settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

INTERFAX Carries Trade, Investment News

OW0506035092

[Editorial Report] Moscow INTERFAX in English, as received via Tokyo KYODO at 0204 on 6 June, carries its weekly "Trade and Investment" feature. The following stories concerning international investment are carried within the "Headline News" section of the weekly feature:

RUSSIA TO SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Although South Africa is against creating any cartels in the area of trade in gold and diamonds - most of which are mined in Russia and South Africa, the two countries' common interests should not be ignored, the South African President Frederic de Klerk remarked during his visit to Russia. He said these two countries could control gold and diamond prices on world markets. Interfax has learned from sources in Russia's Foreign Ministry that a number of agreements should have been signed during the visit, specifically on trade and economic cooperation and on air flights, but these were not ready in time for the talks. It was decided that after a number of finishing touches, these agreements would be concluded by means of an exchange of notes. Russia's Chamber for Trade and Commerce is to open its representation in South Africa in the nearest future. For its part, South Africa will hold an exposition of its export goods in Moscow in July.

TULA'S DEFENSE INDUSTRY INVITES FOREIGN INVESTORS

A program for cooperation with foreign investors is to be drawn up before July 1 by the administration of the Tula Region jointly with local industrial enterprises, pursuant to the Russian government's ruling No. 335 "On financial support for defence enterprises and organizations in the Tula Region" adopted on May 21. The program will have to be approved by the Industry Ministry, which, together with the Ministry of External Economic Ties, will assist the region in implementing the program. The Tula Region is a major center of the defense industry, and many of the local defence enterprises are to be converted to civilian production. Tho sector's enterprises work on up-to-date equipment, employ highly-skilled personnel and use advanced technologies.

The government's ruling provides for 3.65 billion rubles in credits, to be granted this year to Tula's defence enterprises for carrying forward conversion programs. The loans will be provided at a low interest rate of 15%.

Moreover, the region's defence enterprises are permitted to retain up to 70% of their foreign exchange revenues from the export of weapons and military materiel, and from provision of licences and technical specifications for their production. The money is to be used to finance their conversion efforts. The credit line will also enable the region's defence enterprises to make payments under contracts they have already concluded in compliance with earlier decisions by the Soviet and Russian governments, as well as discharge their debts to foreign companies, which arise from some of the already executed contracts.

ST PETERSBURG'S CUSTOMS ALLOWED TO LEASE OUT LAND

An ordinance signed by the speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov on May 23 authorizes the North-Western Customs Directorate (Leningrad Region) to lease out land in the customs zone at its own discretion. The ordinance came as a result of a request by the local authorities to the Supreme Soviet, which was supported by the government. The Council of People's Deputies of the Leningrad Region is in this way trying to earn money to put in place a customs infrastructure in the region. The plots of land will be made available both to domestic and foreign investors for specific purposes - construction of commercial and services facilities at the border crossing points in the region. Investors will be entitled to plots of land of up to 5 hectares. The parliament's ordinance points out that these special rights have been given to the customs authority by way of exception.

RUSSIA MOVES TO LEARN FRENCH WAYS OF REGULATING ECONOMY

The Russian government has set up task groups to expand cooperation with France in the area of regulating economic development. The groups have been created pursuant to an agreement signed during President Yeltsin's visit to France earlier in the year. The seven groups will specialize in the following areas: analysis of the progress of economic reforms and formulation of economic policies; development of indicators of economic activity and of diagnostic tools; income regulation and social protection policies; prospects of transforming ownership arrangements and privatization processes; financial forecasting and budget preparation techniques; improving of trade mechanisms and the government contract system; Russia's integration into the world economy and foreign investments. The task groups are comprised of senior officials from Russia's Economic, Industry, Finance and Foreign Ministries, Ministry for External Economic Ties, Ministry of Social Security, Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, State Committee for Management of State Property, State Committee for Foreign Investments, State Tax Service, and State Statistics Committee.

Oppostition Views South African Relations

OW0506133792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 5 Jun 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The establishment of diplomatic relations with South Africa was just as premature as President de Klerk's recent visit to Moscow, one of the leaders of the opposition Russian Unity parliamentary faction Sergey Baburin said at a meeting with the head of ANC's [African National Congress] office in Moscow Tamba Tabete. He said part of Russian MPs [members of parliament] had seen the decision on that score as running against Russia's national interests.

Baburin who is calling for further contacts with ANC does not believe that the process of reform in South Africa has become irreversible. That is why pressure on the South African government, he says, must be kept up.

Earlier this week, Baburin has already attacked the government's foreign policy line on the issue of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. Baburin who is known for his outspoken criticism of Mr Yeltsin's government has urged for sacking top foreign ministry officials.

Documents Drafted on Rights of Russians

LD0906162992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Skripnikov and Sergey Starosleskiy]

[Text] Moscow June 9 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry has prepared the drafts of two documents on protecting the rights of Russians in the former Soviet republics, according to a spokesman of the ministry. The documents concern the issues of migration, social welfare benefits and citizenship of national, religious, language and cultural minorities, Sergei Yastrzhembskiy said at a briefing on Tuesday [9 June].

To protect the rights of Russians living in the Commonwealth a state delegation of the country is holding negotiations with other CIS representatives. The Russian Foreign Ministry wants that all republics abide by their human rights commitments pledged in the framework of the CSCE and other international institutions, according to the spokesman.

"The Russian example of a civilised and respectful attitude to nationalities problems, including the problems facing Russian citizens ethnically interlinked with the Baltic states and other Commonwealth countries, might become a major instrument of influence on our partners in protecting the rights of compatriots wherever they live", Yastrzhembskiy said.

Official Criticizes 'Violation' of 'Secrets'

OW0906212892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A crime, a flagrant violation of the Russian President's decree on state secrets", was the head of the information department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy's assessment of the publication in the "Den" newspaper of the complete text of a coded telegram from the Russian Ambassador to the UN, adviser to the head of the Russian government Yulia Vorontsova from May 29. The telegram concerned the advisability of joining the UN sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The Foreign Ministry representative said the publication of the document in the pro-communist publication "hurt the important and sensitive functioning of the Russian diplomatic corps in the confidential discussion of world problems". Yastrzhembsky said "it destroys the trust in our government by our foreign partners".

Walesa Thanks Yeltsin for Return of Archives

PM0806155392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Jun 92 First Edition p 3

[Untitled, unattributed report under the "Day's Telegrams" rubric]

[Text] Warsaw—In a letter, Polish President Lech Walesa has expressed gratitude to Boris Yeltsin for his decision to return to Poland archives concerning its history, and for the handover of some of them during the Polish guest's official visit to Moscow.

Shelov-Kovedyayev Meets French Official

LD0806164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jun (ITAR-TASS)—Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, received on 6 June, Madame Anne Lauvergeon, personal representative of the French president and deputy secretary general of the Elysee Palace, the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department reported.

According to the department, their conversation covered the meeting of the heads of state and government of the seven most developed Western countries, due to be held in Munich in July of this year, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin's participation in it. They also discussed a broad range of issues concerning Russian-French cooperation.

Mongolian Foreign Minister Stops Over

LD0906083492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 8 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 8 Jun—Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpilyn Gombosuren today returned home after a lengthy foreign visit. In late May and early June he paid official visits to Turkey, Ukraine, and Austria, and was received warmly wherever he went. He met with heads of state and government and held talks with his foreign counterparts.

A number of documents have been signed that are of considerable importance both for Mongolia, which is assiduously pursuing an economic policy of openness, and for its new partners. On his way home, the minister made a brief stopover in Moscow to meet with Russian Vice Premier Valeriy Makharadze, who leads the Russian delegation on the two countries' intergovernmental commission on trade, economics, science, and technology.

PRC Diplomat on Dalai Lama's Comments

PM0806130792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Letter from Li Fangzhong, counselor at the PRC Embassy to Russia, under the general heading "From the International Departments' Mail": "Tibet Is Indivisible Part of China"]

[Text] On 30 April your newspaper (No 103) published an interview with the dalai lama in which he talked at length about so-called "Tibetan independence" and made malicious attacks on the Chinese Government's domestic and foreign policy, which has had a negative effect among a wide range of readers. In this connection I would state the following:

Tibet is an indivisible part of Chinese territory. This is the result of lengthy historical development. There is a long history of friendly contacts between Tibetans and the Han Chinese. These contacts developed rapidly from the 7th century onward. Tibet officially became part of China in the 13th century, and from that time its political and religious regime was established by the central government under all dynasties.

In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was proclaimed, serfdom—which had long existed—was abolished in Tibet, as an autonomous region of China, and new life and construction began. In 1959 a group of splittists headed by the dalai lama launched a reactionary armed uprising in Tibet and then fled abroad, where they started agitating for Tibetan independence and engaging in splittist activity. Tibet has still not been recognized as an independent country by any state anywhere in the world.

The Chinese Government's consistent position on the question of Tibet is as follows: It is an autonomous region of the PRC. China opposes any attempt to separate Tibet from China.

The dalai lama presents himself as a "human rights campaigner" in an attempt to mislead public opinion throughout the world, but facts are facts. Before the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the dalai lama was the head of a feudal system. His rule in Tibet, "combining politics and religion," inhumanely exploited and oppressed the broad masses of serfs. The advocates of serfdom held their own kangaroo courts, set up jails, and took the cruelest reprisals against the poor serfs—measures such as plucking out their eyes and skinning them alive. The serfs did not have the basic right to live. The average lifespan of the population at the time was a mere 35. Now the Chinese Government has not only fully safeguarded the people's freedom of worship, but is also making immense efforts to help develop the Tibetan economy. The Tibetan people's living and cultural standards have noticeably improved. The number of Tibetans has more than doubled. Whereas in the early fifties, they numbered around 1 million, in 1990 this figure had increased to 2,090,000.

The dalai lama is not just a religious figure. He is a refugee who engages in political activity while living abroad. We oppose political activity by the dalai lama in other countries—under whatever guise that activity is conducted—and oppose his political statements, which damage the cause of the unity of the homeland and national cohesion. We also oppose actions by those persons who, for political reasons, are exploiting the dalai lama in his anti-Chinese aims.

[Signed] Li Fangzhong, counselor at the PRC Embassy to Russia

Foreign Ministry on Fate of Erich Honecker

LD0906121992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1036 GMT 8 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 8th Jun—The fate of former GDR leader Erich Honecker, who has been staying on the territory of the Chilean embassy in Moscow since the end of 1991, should be decided by Santiago and Bonn. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry continues to adhere to this view. A representative of the Russian External Political Affairs Department gave this answer today to a request from an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on Chilean President Patricio Aylwin's statement that the "Honecker problem" should be settled in a legal way, not politically. The president recalled that during the years when Pinochet ruled in Chile, Honecker granted many citizens of Chilean nationality political asylum in GDR, and thus saved their lives.

The present Chilean ambassador in Moscow Clodomiro Almeyda, who accepted the former GDR leader into his residence as a guest, was among those Chilean political refugees. Clodomiro Almeyda left Russia for Santiago last week. According to an official report, he has left on an annual vaction, yet it has become known from reliable sources that he will at least not return to Moscow in the capacity of ambassador.

Speaking about the "juridical legal" means of settling the "Honecker problem" the Chilean president meant, probably, the fact that all attempts to pursuade the former German leader to voluntary leave the territory of the Chilean diplomatic mission in Moscow have failed. He categorically refuses to return to Germany where he awaits a court trial for the order he once gave to open fire on GDR citizens who attemped to climb over the Berlin Wall.

As for the Russian authorities, they regard his stay on the territory of the country as illegal since he arrived at the invitation of the then USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev without a visa or residence permit. If Honecker leaves the Chilean embassy, he could be detained and taken to Germany by force.

Correction to Interview With Ambassador to U.S.

PM0906185392

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "New Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed," published in the 4 June Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 27:

Make sourceline read ...Moscow NEW TIMES INTERNATIONAL in English No 17, Apr 92... (correcting sourceline per change in publication title)

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Addresses Armed Forces Commanders

OW1006105892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [8 June], the conference of the Russian Armed Forces' senior commanders was attended by Boris Yeltsin and Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov.

President Yeltsin described the situation in Russia and in the CIS as quite complicated. However, he brushed away the assertions that the situation is ruining Russia and the CIS. "For the first time over the past few years," he said, "we've got down to routine everyday work, clearing away the rubble of problems."

The painfulness of the economic reform derives from several factors," [no beginning quotation marks as received] said the president.

The first one is the deep economic crisis in the (?1980's) which led to a "dramatic situation". "All the talk about the reform which continued for so many years, in fact blocked this reform. As a result, the economy became utterly unbalanced, the ruble found itself in a state of clinical death, economic recession made itself felt and the country got confronted with the real threat of economic catatsrophe in the winter of 1991-92." Over the past seventy years, the entire market infrastructure, once very well developed, was eliminated and even "erased from the memory of several generations," said Yeltsin. The liberalization of prices, said Yeltsin, was a forced measure aimed at laying the foundations for the economic reform. If we chose the traditional classical way, we would fail to implement the reform quickly, said Yeltsin.

The reform coinsided with the break-up of the Union and with disintegraton. This is the main result of our skidding during the previous years. To save the interrepublican contacts, to prevent the chain reaction of disintegration, one needed to switch on the tough market mechanisms, he continued. These particular mechanisms largely ensure the functioning of the CIS and Russia. Without reforms and by political means alone, one will fail to do this.

As we worked on the reform, we were well aware that the nation pinned great hopes on it and that its patience was almost tapped. Among the biggest obstacles on the road of the reform was a lack of personnel. There were many advisers and critics, but when the time came to form up a dedicated team of people, ready to bear the responsibility for the country's economic future, very few people stayed.

Gaydar's team has no alternative, Yeltsin said in conclusion.

Dubynin Named Chief of Staff

LD1006071592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0702 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed Colonel-General Viktor Dubynin as chief of staff of the Russian Army and first deputy defence minister. Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov became Dubynin's deputy.

Colonel-Generals Vladimir Toporov, Valeriy Mironov and Georgiy Kondratyev were appointed deputy defence ministers, Yeltsin announced at a meeting of top Army officials in Moscow on Wednesday [10 June].

Need for State Borders Stressed

LD1006100792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia and Supreme Commander in Chief of the Russian Armed Forces, spoke today at the conference of the top command of the Army and Navy. In an interval, he stated to journalists:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The first thing, and probably the top priority, is the border with the Baltic states. That is, Estonia, and partly with Latvia and Lithuania, and with Byelarus. The way it turns out is that indeed, at the moment, considering that there is no real customs service or state border, sometimes there is, so to speak, simply an illegal outflow of goods and so on from Russia, and in general, so to speak, a penetration by intelligence services of foreign countries, which now come freely to the Baltics, and from the Baltics get straight into Russia.

Moreover, some people believe that it is now necessary to reinforce intelligence services against the Russian Federation. For that reason, a state border is needed there, and we have adopted a definite decision here: First, to press ahead with a customs service, to simply press ahead with a real customs service, and the customs committee has been tasked with this. The second thing is to start creating a genuine state border. To begin with, marker posts, then special operational detachments for the border, then the infrastructure and the creation of a real border. There are no questions there.

Second, we believe that it is necessary to create a state border with Azerbaijan. There is only a little bit there, but to begin with, we have to cover it for customs, and second, we have to create a state border there, because they have made for virtually visa-free crossing with Armenia, that is, with Iran, Turkey, and so on, and penetration of Russian territory is going on. [end recording]

Support for Gaydar Team Expressed

LD1006090392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Russian President Boris Yeltsin spoke today at the conference of the top armed forces commanders of the Russian Federation. He pointed out that the republic's economic situation is also affecting the whole army. Yeltsin acknowledged the situation to be difficult but not hopeless. The president dwelled upon certain isues of military construction. He told journalists that construction of the state border with Estonia and Latvia, and also with Azerbaijan, will be pushed ahead at full speed. It is through these states that the reconnaissance work of intelligence services is carried out, and that goods flow out of Russia. The question of a strict state border with Ukraine, Georgia, and Kazakhstan is as yet open, given the complex situation and the complexity of the tasks being tackled, the president said. Yeltsin also announced new appointments in the armed forces. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists today at the meeting with the top Russian military commanders, Boris Yeltsin declared that he had no intention of leaving the post of chairman of the government until the Gaydar team—as he put it—was able independently to resolve all the tasks and planned reforms. The new people who have been appointed deputy premiers, Boris Yeltsin said, have declared that they would not allow a split in the government and would maintain the strategic course of reforms.

Commander Views Conference

LD0906223692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "News and Views" program]

[Text] A conference of the leadership of Russia's Armed Forces has opened in Moscow. More about its first day from General Gennadiy Stefanovskiy, an assistant commander of the strategic forces of the combined CIS troops:

[Stevanovskiy in Russian fading to English translation] The conference is discussing the urgent problems of building up Russia's Armed Forces and ways to form such armies and fleets that are essential for a major power; a task to work out the concept of armed forces' formation is not on the conference agenda since it has already been spelled out in interviews with General Grachev and some other military leaders. Guidelines to put this concept into reality are being discussed.

The conference has noted that Russia's troops are being recruited on the basis of the former USSR Army, but the Army command does not intend to copy those armed forces, nor is it going to dismantle them. It plans to build on what has been useful and do away with the shortcomings of today. Global experience and research are being used towards this end by taking the specific features of Russia into account, but even now it is clear that the Army of Russia will be formed on the basis of the best trained units of the former Soviet Armed Forces.

That was by General Gennadiy Stefanovskiy, an assistant commander of the strategic forces of the combined CIS troops.

Yeltsin Denies Rumors About Resignation

OW1006104392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has categorically denied rumors about the Cabinet's plans to resign after Yeltsin returns from the U.S. in June. On Wednesday [10 June], Yeltsin told IF's [INTERFAX] special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov during his meeting with the deputy-heads of government and with State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, that the newly-appointed vice-premiers (Shumeyko, Chernomyrdin and Khizha - IF) strongly backed the reform. "They expressed their support for the strategy of the reforms and said that they will not allow Gaydar's team to split up," said Yeltsin.

The president also said that he will still remain chairman of the government. I will leave this post only when I see that Gaydar's team can work without me efficiently.

Decree on Formation of Security Council Issued

PM0906193092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

[Decree No. 547 of the Russian Federation president "On the Formation of the Russian Federation Security Council," dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 3 June 1992 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin; under the "Official Section" rubric]

[Text] On the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation Law "On Security," I resolve:

1. The Russian Federation Security Council is to be set up to ensure the realization of the functions of the Russian Federation president in managing the state, shaping domestic, foreign, and military policy in the sphere of security, preserving Russia's state sovereignty, maintaining sociopolitical stability in society, and protecting citizens' rights and freedoms.

2. The following are to be established as the main areas of activity of the Russian Federation Security Council:

the preparation of the Russian Federation president's annual report to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on ensuring Russia's security as the basic program document for organs of executive power on questions of domestic, foreign, and military policy, as well as for the drafting of legal acts in the sphere of protecting vitally important interests of the individual, society, and the state against external and internal threats;

the organization of the work of permanent and temporary interdepartmental commissions formed by the Russian Federation Security Council on a functional or regional basis as the main instrument for drawing up draft decisions of the Russian Federation president;

the drafting of proposals to ensure the protection of the constitutional system, the state sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation within the limits defined by the Russian Federation Constitution, the Federation Treaty, and the laws of the Russian Federation.

3. The Russian Federation Security Council is to be formed in accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On Security."

Leaders of ministries and departments who are not members of the Russian Federation Security Council participate in the work of the Russian Federation Security Council for the discussion of questions relating to their competence in accordance with the procedure defined by the chairman of the Russian Federation Security Council.

When questions of ensuring security on the territories of the republics within the Russian Federation, of krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs, and of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are examined, their plenipotentiary representatives and the chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy participate in the work of the Russian Federation Security Council.

4. The Statute on the Russian Federation Security Council is approved.

5. The standing conferences created earlier in accordance with the Statute on the RSFSR President's Commission To Elaborate Proposals on the Status, Structure, and Operating Procedure of the RSFSR Security Council are to be transformed into interdepartmental commissions of the Russian Federation Security Council.

The secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council is to submit statutes on the said interdepartmental commissions for approval within one month.

The list and composition of other interdepartmental commissions are defined by a decision of the Russian Federation Security Council on being submitted by the secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council.

6. The secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council is to:

complete the formation of organs of the Russian Federation Security Council before 1 July 1992;

submit proposals to the Russian Federation Security Council on the organizational structure of the Russian Federation Security Council providing for the participation of organs of executive power and management of the republics within the Russian Federation and of krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, and autonomous okrugs in the activity of the Russian Federation Security Council.

7. Leaders of organs of state management of the Russian Federation are to provide the necessary current and analytical information for the activity of the Russian Federation Security Council.

8. The administration of the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, and the Government of Moscow are to provide for the activity of the Russian Federation Security Council office premises, equipment, and the material and technical facilities necessary for the functioning of the working organs of the Russian Federation Security Council.

The secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council is to submit appropriate proposals on these questions within one week.

9. The decree comes into force the moment it is signed.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation
[Dated] 3 June 1992

Membership, Tasks of Security Council Defined

PM0906194092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jun 92 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Official Section"]

[Text] The Provision [polozheniye] on the Security Council says that the council being formed on the basis of the Russian Federation Constitution and the Russian Federation Law "On Security" includes the Council chairman, the secretary, permanent members, and members. The president of the Russian Federation is chairman of the Security Council ex officio. The following are permanent members of the Council ex officio: the vice president of the Russian Federation, the first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the Russian Federation government, and the secretary of the Security Council. Leaders of federal ministries and departments as well as other officials appointed by the president of the Russian Federation by consent of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet can be members of the Council. Permanent members of the Council have equal rights in the adoption of decisions. Members of the Security Council participate in its work with the right to speak, but have no vote.

The Security Council's decisions, like recommendations to the president, are adopted at sessions by the permanent members of the Council, whose presence is obligatory, by a simple majority of votes from among their total number, and they enter into force following ratification by the chairman of the Council.

The Security Council secretary is appointed by the president of the Russian Federation and confirmed in his appointment by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

In accordance with the tasks entrusted to it, the Council examines questions of the Russian Federation's domestic, foreign, and military policy in the sphere of ensuring security, and strategic problems of state, economic, social, defense, environmental, and other types of security and the prediction and measures for the prevention of emergency situations and for overcoming their consequences; it coordinates, together with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, the elaboration of strategy in the sphere of the Russian Federation's domestic, foreign, and military policy; it carries out an assessment of the internal and external threats to the vital interests of security installations and the exposure of their sources; organizes the elaboration of federal programs in the sphere of ensuring the Russian Federation's security and assesses their efficiency; and resolves other tasks.

Decree on Sports, Physical Culture Signed

LD1006044492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1653 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, 8 June— The president of the Russian Federation has signed two documents aimed at developing physical culture and sports.

The first decree is "On the Structure of the State Management of Physical Education and Sports in the Russian Federation." In connection with radical changes in the political, social and economic system of managing society and for the purpose of streamlining the structure of managing physical education in the Russian Federation, the president has decreed to approve the structure of managing physical education and sports drawn up in accordance with the instruction of the head of the Russian Federation of 17 February 1992 ,"On the Results of a Meeting Between the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)."

By this decree, a coordinating council for physical culture and sports is being set up under the chairman of government; the committee takes upon itself the duties of developing and implementing state policy in the sphere of physical education and sports and coordinating the activity of state, public and sports organizations. The Russian Federation's Government has been requested to approve a statute on the coordinating council within one month. The president approves of the creation of a national sports fund for attracting means of enterprises, public and other organizations and citizens with the purpose of developing the infrastructure of sports for the masses and the sports industry. The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice has been instructed to register the national fund within 15 days. The government has been requested to prepare proposals on preferential taxation of the fund for the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet within one month. The State Committee for the Management of State Property together with Moscow's government should prepare proposals on allocating a separate building in Moscow for the national sports fund within 20 days.

The same decree abolishes the committee for promoting the Olympic movement under the Russian Federation Government. A commission for disbanding the above committee is being set up for this purpose.

For the purpose of implementing a state program for improving the nation's health the Russian Government has been requested to draw up the structure of, and approve the statute on, a state management body for the issues of young people and the physical education of the population. The same day, on 1 June, the president of the Russian Federation also signed a decree "On the All-Russian Olympic Committee." It says that for the purpose of further developing the Olympic movement in Russia and enhancing the role of public initiative in organizing physical education and sports as well as taking into account the official recognition of the All-Russian Olympic Committee (AOC) by the International Olympic Committee, the right to regulate the activity of sports federations and other public sports organizations is being transferred to the AOC.

At the same time, the All-Russian Olympic Committee takes over the right to use the name "Russia" and its derivatives in the activity of Russian sports public associations and organizations as well as the right to approve the status of Russian sports federations.

The AOC is being recognized as the legal successor of the Committee for promoting the Olympic movement under the Russian Federation Government as part of the implementation of the decree of the president of the Russian Federation of 20 January 1992, "On Training Russian Athletes for the Olympic Games of 1992." The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation has been requested to permit the All-Russian Olympic Committee to independently prepare exit documents in accordance with the established procedure.

The Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property has been instructed to transfer the building at the address: 8, Luzhnetskaya Embankment, Moscow, to the AOC for accomodating its apparatus as well as the apparatus of sports federations and other public organizations.

It has been recommended to the governments of the republic within the Russian Federation and the heads of administration of krays and oblasts that they should give all possible support to the activity of the All-Russian Olympic Committee.

Gaydar Says Gas Must Rise to 'World Prices'

LD0906195692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by correspondent N.Chernyshova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Begin Gaydar recording] Inevitably it will be necessary to continue on the road of bringing internal prices of petroleum products closer to world prices. As for a specific timetable of future steps, I would not like to discuss this apart from anything else because speculation on this subject inevitably causes a wave of inflationary expectations and is destructive in itself.

What can I say? It is obvious that we will have to make price adjustments in the course of this year. Whether it will be some kind of revolution is another matter. I myself see no reason for a revolution this year. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Abalkinization' of Gaydar Government Seen

PM0906104992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Commentary by Mikhail Berger: "Yeltsin's New Appointments—Likelihood of 'Abalkinization' of the Gaydar Government"]

[Text] The vice premiership in our country is becoming a mass profession: As many as four new deputy chairmen have appeared in the Russian Government within just a few days: Georgiy Khizha, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Anatoliy Chubays, and Vladimir Shumeyko. Having started with a modest number of deputy government chairmen—a team of three (Gennadiy Burbulis, Yegor Gaydar, and Aleksandr Shokhin)—the president has brought the number of vice premiers up to seven, two of whom are first deputies. If he carries on this way, there will soon be no space left in the Politburo members' offices on Staraya Square, which are now occupied by the top government officials. One of the present occupants of such an office remarked on Russian television that such difficulties are already beginning to arise.

Not only does the strangeness of the presence of a group of first deputies known to us from former Union governments elicit quite definite associations, but in the very structure of the cabinet a painfully familiar phenomenon is beginning to rear its head—sectorial vice premiers, who head sector groups. Remember the USSR Council of Ministers Bureaus for the Fuel and Energy and the Chemical and Timber, and so forth, Complexes? References to the special significance of the "curatorships" that are being set up suggest that a new group of vice premiers will soon appear—for agrarian questions, for instance, or something else.

The appearance of new faces in the government, promised by Boris Yeltsin to the Congress of People's Deputies, was not and could not have been unexpected. Perhaps the individuals themselves perplexed some people, that is all. What was unexpected was the fact that the introduction into the cabinet of practical specialists not in ministerial posts, as might have been supposed, but in supraministerial posts changes the design, and even the very philosophy, of executive power in Russia.

The initial complexion of the cabinet of reforms gave grounds for supposing that what had been instituted was not a new all-Russian dispatchers' office regulating the movement of trains and the flow of electricity, but some sort of economic headquarters. Sectorial deputy heads of government did not appear, and, as far as is known, none was envisaged; it was planned to manage the sectors themselves through committees or departments under amalgamated ministries like the Ministry of Industry. The executive thereby demonstrated its intention to substantially reduce its direct, everyday interference in current economic matters at the microeconomic level (enterprises, associations, and organizations). At the same time, finances, as in the majority of reformist governments, were administered by Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar.

The development of events has not only smashed this concept of government by promoting practical specialists-cum-dispatchers to the top roles, but has also pushed the main financier into the second rank of ordinary ministers.

All this has prompted newspapers to assess the new appointments as the removal of the Gaydar team from direct control of the economy and its transformation into a version of the State Commission for Reform in Nikolay Ryzhkov's government. Even within the Gaydar team itself a term has already appeared, characterizing the reshuffles which are taking place as an "Abalkinization" of the government in which the old incumbents have been assigned the role of the notorious structure headed by Leonid Abalkin.

The new vice premiers, at least some of them, do not link the latest appointments to a change of course. Anatoliy Chubays stated at a news conference 2 June that the appearance of representatives of the corps of directors in the government should not be interpreted as a retreat from reform. He also explained his own appointment rather neutrally: According to the law on privatization, the chairman of the State Committee for Property automatically becomes a vice premier; hence he will not have any fundamentally new functions. The other newcomers to the government collegium (an organ gaining in power and influence) have so far not voiced their opinions on this score, but hardly anyone in Russia doubts that the appearance or removal of top officials is a far more convincing demonstration of the policy conducted at the present time than public declarations or the adoption of programs of one sort or another.

The reshuffles that are under way reflect to a significant degree the results of the battle for Yeltsin himself, as the only real political force at the moment in Russia, a one-man party. Whoever this party supports controls the situation. There are at least four major teams which are constantly waging this battle. First of all, there are the people with whom Boris Yeltsin began his career in Sverdlovsk and who are still with him today. Some of them are well known (Oleg Lobov, Yuriy Petrov), some are less well known, but also at his side. Apart from the "old Sverdlovsk" team, there is also the old Moscow team. This consists of Yeltsin's comrades-in-arms during his Moscow career, such as Yuriy Skokov. Also at the president's side are people from his native Sverdlovsk who actively supported him in the later period of the late eighties-early nineties, such as Gennadiy Burbulis. This is, notionally speaking, the new Sverdlovsk team. And finally, there is the new Moscow team, the nucleus of which is Yegor Gaydar and his circle.

The political prejudices and outlooks on the economic setup of each of the teams have been put forward by their leaders, and do not require special explanations. And policy in appointments, and policy itself, greatly depend on which of them the president listens to most.

The latest appointments attest that today the pendulum has swung away from the new Moscow team in favor of the old Sverdlovsk and Moscow teams. For how long, it is difficult to say, just as it is difficult to confidently assert that the appointment of Anatoliy Chubays, one of the key ministers of the Gaydar circle, as vice premier reflects an intention on the president's part to maintain the equilibrium all the same.

Irrespective of this, there exists a fundamental danger that the cabinet of reforms will be diluted with sector chiefs to such an extent that the new Moscow team will itself simply deem it impossible to continue its work.

Difficult Tasks Face Gaydar's Expanded Team

PM0806145392 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jun 92 p 2

[Article by Gennadiy Yastrebtsov: "What Joys Will New Russian Government Appointments Bring To Economic Reforms?"]

[Text] Over the past few days the names of the new vice premiers—Boris Saltykov, Georgiy Khizha, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Anatoliy Chubays, and Vladimir Shumeyko—have been announced. "This represents," Boris Yeltsin stated in a Kremlin speech at a meeting with the

"Reform" parliamentary group, "a strengthening of the Gaydar team with specialists and practical workers who have knowledge and experience of working in various sectors and are supporters of reform"

Reaction to the new appointments has been ambiguous. Commentaries in the democratic press have hit strident notes—they claim that the replacement of the cabinet is quietly under way, that attempts are being made to move the Gaydar team away from the front line, and that it is under pressure from the industry lobby and conservatives dreaming of holding up the course of reform.

But it strikes me that, strange as it may seem, any holdups have so far come from the participation of the "young and energetic" government members. "We should clearly realize that during our two years in power we have not yet had any victories, only defeats." This admission comes not from an opposition member or partocrat, but from Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet. The level of production continues to fall and prices keep soaring away. The notorious "shock therapy" is killing the people's last hopes if not of a rich life, at least of a normal human life, when you do not have to worry about bread on the table, and when you have a job and a roof over your head.

Needless to say, I am far from sharing in the optimism of those who say that strong and knowledgeable people have finally arrived in the leadership. They will tighten things up, roll up their sleeves and get the heavy cart of reform under way. And it will travel forward easily, as if on rails.

No it won't, and if it does get moving, it will only be with effort and strain, because the economic mechanism has become badly rusted during the perestroyka years. Few of our top leaders have looked carefully into the work of industry, agriculture, transport, or construction. They have been dealing more and more with the macro level and the balanced budget. And now the economy is collapsing, and the budget deficit—if I am not mistaken—is already more than 200 billion rubles.

So just who is really holding up reform? At any rate, it is not plant directors and workers, who are being hit hard by the breakdown of economic ties. And it is not the peasants, who are on the receiving end of a practical attack from the commercial banks.

Few people can now doubt the need for reform, in my opinion. Expediting reform while not impoverishing the people is an exceptionally difficult task. The near future will show us whether the Russian Government's new "crack squad" will be up to it.

Gaydar Suggested for Prime Minister Post

LD0906191692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] According to international news services, a CIA report presented to Congress says that the economic reforms in Russia will take at least 10 years. Secretary of State Baker says he does not expect the Congress to approve the bill on aid to Russia before the summit. He thinks this regrettable, but hopes that final approval will be obtained. True, the West considers that guarantees are needed on the continuation of the course of reforms.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent S.Luskanov] What kind of policy signal would be understandable to the West?

[K.G.Kagalovskiy, authorized Russian spokesman on cooperation with international financial organizations] There are really some rather obvious things. All over the world our Russian reform is associated and linked with two names, those of President Yeltsin and Yegor Gaydar. In this situation I think all countries expect that the entirely logical solution is for Yegor Gaydar to become the second person, namely prime minister, in the near future. I think it is obvious that this question will arise at, say, the July summit, where Russia will take part and President Yeltsin is invited to take part. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rutskoy's Agricultural Reform Center Shapes Up

OW0506023892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0039 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government held a session in the Kremlin on Thursday [4 June] with President Boris Yeltsin as chairman. Point one on the agenda—the formation of a Land and Agribusiness Reform Centre and its structures—was addressed by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

As the "IF" [INTERFAX] correspondent Marina Chernukha reports after a conversation with the Vice-President on Wednesday, the idea to set up a Centre was approved by Boris Yeltsin even a month and a half ago, when the President instructed the Cabinet to prepare an appropriate decree for signature.

The Vice-President's Adviser Igor Gavrilov explained in an interview with "Interfax" that the Decree provided for the Land and Agribusiness Reform Centre to encourage free enterprise in agriculture and related industries and solve personnel problems by attracting skilled specialists into agriculture. The new structure, as the project authors believe, can also perform analytical functions and analyze how efficient the legislative and executive bodies of power are to make it possible to "sift" ineffective decrees and decisions and prepare them for revision.

Besides, the draft decree provides for the formation within the Government of a bloc from a number of Ministries and Departments and for the (clear-cut coordination of actions, essential for land and agribusiness reform. There is a major role to play for an International Fund to be headquarted at the Land and Agrobusiness Reform Centre. Contrived as a Presidential body, the Centre will become a cosponsor of this International Fund, whose experts are expected to assess the financial feasibility of various projects and their expediency.

Mr. Gavrilov predicts that the Land and Agribusiness Reform Center will become the "brain" of the new structure. It will consist of 68 eminent scientists in the field of agriculture from Russia and other countries.

As "Interfax" has learned from the Vice-President's Office, the Government has on the whole approved Aleksandr Rutskoy's report about plans to form the Center. However, a number of legal remarks was voiced. For one thing, opponents objected to the proposal to set up in the Government a block from the Ministries and Departments, working for the needs of the Agribusiness Complex.

IF [INTERFAX] note: As experts from Russia's Ministry of Agriculture have told an "IF" correspondent, there is a number of significant differences between the Vice-President and RF [Russian Federation's] Agricultural Departments. Initially Mr. Rutskoy planned the Centre as a "supraministerial structure". However, the plan was flatly rejected by "Gaydar's team" (now, the Centre will be formed at the President's Office). Then, it was proposed creating in the Cabinet a bloc of ministries to service the agribusiness complex through Mr. Rutskoy's supervision. Thursday's session voiced objections to these intentions. Government experts believe that if the Vice-President's concept is put into, effect, there might be "dual power" with "Rutskoy's team" and the Ministry of Agriculture to be in charge of the industry. In the Cabinet's view, the Ministry of Agriculture has enough opportunities to guide the agribusiness complex. Ministry specialists contend that the issue on the structure of the industry as well as a number of key points in Mr. Rutskoy's agricultural reform program will spark debates at government level. Cabinet advisers, for one, regard as unfeasible Mr. Rutskoy's plan to resettle hundreds of thousands of servicemen, demobilized from the Armed Forces in the countryside for good.

President Yeltsin has issued an instruction to work more on the draft by taking criticisms into account and submit it for signature on June 15th.

Chubays Addresses Democratic Russia Plenum

MK0906145192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Yeltsin Not Left Alone"]

[Text] The preparations for the referendum and the Russian Government reshuffle were two problems tackled by the plenum of the "Democratic Russia" movement's Council of Representatives in Moscow.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Premier A. Chubays said that the government has decided to implement privatization by means of competitive tendering and auctions, thus depriving officials of a chance to abuse their position. Chubays said that the issuing of personal privatization accounts—vouchers—by the end of the year is the top-priority task in the course of major privatization. Speaking about cadre changes in the cabinet, Chubays attributed them to the fact that the actual concept behind the organization of the government's work has changed, with the government now moving on from extraordinary measures to reform.

However, Russian People's Deputy P. Filippov, Economy Minister A. Nechayev, and, in particular, G. Yakunin, "Democratic Russia" cochairman, expressed profound concern at the concessions made by the president in appointing military-industrial complex proteges to key posts. "By the fall there will be an attempt to establish a military-industrial dictatorship in the country," A. Sobyanin, an expert from the "Russian Federation-Policy" center, noted, "and after G. Popov's resignation the new mayor will relieve A. Murashev and Ye. Savostyanov of their posts, thus leaving the way open to strong-arm action by the opposition in the capital."

A group of most radical members of the Council of Representatives even circulated a statement regarding the need to oppose the Russian president and demanding the convocation of an extraordinary "Democratic Russia" congress where the movement would establish its attitude toward Yeltsin's actions. However, most of the plenum's participants did not go along with this, thinking it possible to back the president as long as he does not abandon democratic reforms. By way of retaliation a referendum was proposed to legalize private land ownership, give the president a chance to directly seek the Russian people's support, and make it possible to adopt a new Constitution at a specially convened Constituent Assembly.

Chubays Previews State Privatization Program

PM1006091292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Irina Demchenko: "80 'Wooden' Rubles a Dollar: Is Comrade Ruble Going at the Right Rate?"]

[Text] Speaking on 8 June at a symposium organized in Moscow by the newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN and Harvard University, Russian Government Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays stated that at the government session on Thursday [11 June] he will deliver a report on the final version of the state privatization program, whose implementation will proceed without delay.

Taking into account the interests of the symposium participants, A. Chubays dwelt in detail on the problem of the use of foreign capital in the privatization of state property. He noted that there are no systematized normative documents in Russian legislation to make it clear with whom a potential foreign investor should negotiate, who is entitled to make a decision on his participation or nonparticipation in privatization, and how powers are allocated. At the same time it is clear already that it is practically impossible to carry out the privatization of state property on a scale such as is required in Russia without bringing in foreign capital.

Our main principle, A. Chubays said, will be to make the same demands on participants in the privatization process irrespective of their citizenship. We reject the introduction of a special investment rate for the ruble, thereby putting foreign investors on an equal footing with Russian investors. At the request of a participant in the symposium A. Chubays specified that he thinks the uniform rate will be approximately 80 rubles [R] a dollar.

As you know, at the moment there are three ruble rates against the dollar, including the one at which essential imports to Russia take place, including grain imports. This was recently R5.4 a dollar, but about three weeks ago it was raised to R20. Now bread in Moscow costs R15 a loaf, although the baking industry doubtless still has flour stocks that were built up at the old prices. The switch to a uniform ruble rate, which, according to the vice premier, should take place this summer, will mean a very sharp surge in prices for bread, medicines, and light industry output, whatever incantations the politicians may perform. It is only fair to acknowledge that this is no less an objective factor than the increased cost of oil. Incidentally, if it is decided that domestic prices should be linked to world prices, which is entirely possible, then given a rate of R80 a dollar the oil price would go up to approximately 25-27 times today's level.

This turn of events, apart from the main obvious consequences, could lead, among other things, to a significant loss of interest in our property on the part of foreign investors, since the main attractions for them at the moment are our cheap manpower and low prices, and certainly not fixed capital which has not been updated for at least the last three or four years, still less the quality of our output.

Anatoliy Chubays stated that in some sectors special regimes will be introduced for foreign investments. He believes that this should happen in sectors directly associated with the production of military output, those that determine Russia's export potential, primarily enterprises in the fuel and energy complex, and the sphere of small-scale privatization, where our own entrepreneurs cannot currently compete with foreign capital. A. Chubays repeated several times that it is not a question of a ban, but of certain restrictions. "The sphere in which foreign investments are directly banned," he said, "should be considerably narrower."

Unemployment May Reach 4 Million at Year's End

OW0806193492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The number of unemployed workers may reach four million in Russia by the end of the year, the chairman of the Employment Committee of the Russian Parliament Fyodor Prokopov said at a press conference in Moscow Monday [8 June]. Prokopov said that he could not give an exact figure since many unemployed workers do not report to the employment service.

In May there were 151 thousand registered as unemployed, 70% of them are women, more than 35% urban dwellers.

Prokopov said the "first wave" of unemployed will appear in June or July as the academic year in middle and higher education institutions ends. The number of unemployed will increase as firms declare bankruptcy, leaving nearly 1 million unemployed by Autumn. The committee does not rule out the probability that local hotbeds with 20-25% unemployment will spring up. Toward the end of the year nearly 3 million more will be unemployed.

Meeting Backs Idea of 'Labor Conference'

PM0906153992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 2

[Report by V. Litov: "To Prevent a Disaster"]

[Text] Moscow—If present trends continue, the country's national income will fall by 44 percent by 1995, which will greatly exceed the analogous drop in the first two years of the Great Patriotic War. It will prove possible to restore its level only by the year 2012 at best, when the developed countries will have moved far ahead, leaving Russia in the position of a semicolonial appendage of the West, a source of raw materials where the overwhelming majority of the population is on the poverty line. These sociological predictions were made at the All-Russian Conference of Representatives of Labor Collectives, Trade Unions, Strike Committees, and Entrepreneurial and Creative Associations held in Moscow.

The participants in the conference laid the responsibility for the worsening economic crisis on the Russian Government, whose adventurist and anti-national actions have placed the country on the brink of complete disaster.

The meeting participants expressed their support for the creation of an all-Russian labor conference within whose framework talks with the government on a complete review of its course are being proposed.

Gorbachev Accused of Engaging in 'Terrorism'

LD0906164692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By unidentified TASS WORLD SERVICE correspondent]

[Text] Moscow June 9 ITAR-TASS—REUTERS today reported from Rome that Russia's information minister accused Mikhail Gorbachev of engaging in international terrorism.

REUTERS referred to an interview with Mikhail Poltoranin published in the Italian daily L'UNITA on Tuesday [9 June], in which the Russian minister is quoted as saying that Gorbachev had squandered the former Soviet Union's petrodollars to export the revolution to Ethiopia, Cambodia, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Afghanistan.

The minister said Gorbachev had prolonged the Afghan civil war for five years, during which he sold 200 tonnes of gold, diamonds and emptied treasuries to buy wheat and other things to send to Afghanistan.

Poltoranin said "we will publish documents on Afghanistan which will amaze you" and added that "the materials we will make public will make the world tremble with indignation".

The Russian minister gave no more details but told a news conference he had documents showing the Soviet Communist Party had backed terrorist groups up to 1991.

Foundation Rejects Allegations

LD1006021792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Aleksandr Likhotal, the head of the press service of the Gorbachev Foundation, has assessed with criticism suppositions on Gorbachev's involvement in supporting international terrorism. We have already reported that Russian Vice Premier Mikhail Poltoranin said in his interview with the RIA agency that many documents had been discovered exposing top party leaders as accomplices of international terrorism. Poltoranin heads a special commission on the study of archives. He said that the archives also contain potentially scandalous documents signed or approved by Gorbachev.

Commentary Examines Creation of Border Troops

LD0606095592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 5 Jun 92

["News Analyst" Viktor Yenikeyev commentary]

[Text] Russia has decided to create its own border troops and to take over the protection of its frontiers with the other republics within the former Soviet Union. This applies above all to Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and the three Baltic countries formerly within the USSR. A commentary now from our news analyst Viktor Yenikeyev, and this is what he writes:

If one is guided by the logic of the development of interstate relations in Western Europe, this decision may seem absurd. But looking at the decision from the angle of our recent Soviet past, this also may seem unbelievable. Yet, proceeding from the present-day realities in the relations between Commonwealth countries, the decision seems to be the only correct and essential one, and possibly it is somewhat overdue.

Judge for yourselves. Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia are not implementing the temporary accords about jointly guarding their borders with Russia. There is a single-minded campaign in these three countries to build up tension about the stay of troops of the joint armed forces of the Commonwealth, who are called invaders, as it were. Ukraine and Azerbaijan are not part of the Commonwealth military structure. The Azerbaijani leadership has greatly weakened the customs control on its border with Iran, and opposition political forces of that country demand the withdrawal from the Commonwealth. [sentence as heard] Moldova is actually fighting a war against the Russian-speaking population in the Dniester area by importing arms from Romania. Byelarus and Uzbekistan also intend to set up their own border troops. A situation is shaping when only one member of the Commonwealth, Kazakhstan, is fully loyal to its promise to have open borders with Russia. This is an estimate made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

But of course one can recall the traditional ethnic, historical, cultural, and other ties between Russia and Ukraine, though the reality should not be ignored. The reality is that the Kiev leadership, headed by Leonid Kravchuk, has been departing faster and farther from the underlying accords that were reached during the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Practically in his every public utterance, the Ukrainian leader says that the Commonwealth of Independent States is doomed and there is a need to follow a policy fully independent from Moscow. The practical action on this idea was, among other things, the breach of Ukraine's obligation to maintain a single ruble zone. Ukraine was among the first Commonwealth countries to declare its intention to introduce its own currency and to begin acting on the pledge. Bad as it might be for the future of the Commonwealth, most other countries within it are following the example of Kiev.

Despite the centrifugal tendencies, the Russian Government and personally President Yeltsin keep struggling for a viable Commonwealth for years to come. Naturally, this isn't concern for maintaining at least part of the fallen Soviet empire, but homage to common sense in politics and the economy. The introduction of the border and customs control may help reach this goal with minimum loss for, as the future of the Commonwealth is indefinite, Russia has often played the role of a clumsy bear from whom its smaller brothers in the former USSR have been trying to get some benefits. The media report daily illegal exports of precious metals, equipment, and cultural and other values [as heard] from Russia. The vast expanse of Russia has begun to be turned into a most convenient place for the work of thieves, spys, and drug dealers from other Commonwealth countries. There is a need to end this lawlessness and impunity. The faster and the more effectively this is done, the more use will be derived for Russia and for the entire process of democratic transformations on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Yeltsin Urged To Drop Referendum Plan

PM1006081492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by political scientist Liliya Shevtsova: "War of Referenda Could Split Society"]

[Text] It is probably already clear to everyone that the Russian power structure, torn apart by internal conflicts, instead of strengthening society, has itself become a factor for instability. But this can hardly be blamed on the outrageousness and arrogance of particular politicians. It is just that a political system tacked together from pieces belonging to different eras and speaking for antagonistic forces is not able to work efficiently.

This conclusion suggests itself when you observe the confrontation that has emerged on the Russian stage between the executive and representative powers, which now and again takes the form of a war of position. In principle reciprocal attacks by the government and parliament are a natural phenomenon in world practice. In our case the keenness of the confrontation is largely due to the lack of a mature multiparty system. But there is another side to it: The time has come to stop thinking about changing people or obsolete blocs, and start thinking about formulating a new concept of power in the light of the realities of post-Soviet Russia. As yet there is no clear view of this new political model. Everyone agrees that the new power must be "strong." But by what means—through democratic, or authoritarian mechanisms? And what specific content is invested in the concept of "presidency" or "parliamentary republic"? Alas, at the moment all social forces are less interested in the question of how to **transform** power than in how to **redistribute** it. Note, also, that all the talk about political reforms ultimately boils down to a discussion of mainly technical means of reorganization.

On this question, probably for the first time since Gorbachev's day, we are once again seeing the division of all social forces into two camps. This time, into supporters of the compromise method and the shock method of transforming power. In short, into those who are against a referendum (initiated by anyone—be it the democrats or "Working Moscow"), and those who are for a referendum. The first path envisages the peaceful self-reform of representative power through the handover of the functions of the Congress to the Supreme Soviet. Naturally, this is less explosive. But where is the guarantee that the Russian Congress will voluntarily follow the example of the Union Congress? Can we be sure that our body of deputies will be concerned less for their own corporate interests than for the good of the Fatherland?

Naturally, these misgivings give rise to the temptation to turn to the second scenario—the early dissolution of the representative power by means of a referendum and the creation of a new political structure. Well, the tactics of head-on "collision" have already on several occasions enabled the Yeltsin team to secure brilliant victories in storming the communist bastions. But times have changed. Now it is necessary to develop stabilization mechanisms, now society is experiencing not a revolutionary upsurge, but a deepening crisis, including a crisis of confidence in the authorities. In these conditions the policy of "all-out warfare" will only exacerbate the confrontation. We can already see how the idea of a referendum is splitting the parties, dividing one-time allies, and reinforcing extremism on both flanks of political life. In this way we ourselves are tilling the ideal soil from which authoritarian regimes usually grow. And in our case it will by no means necessarily be a Yeltsin dictatorship.

Questions are entirely justified. If we strike a blow against parliament, will this not deprive us of the only counterweight to executive structures, which already have far greater powers than their counterparts in any European country? And if parliament is disbanded, when will new elections take place, and will they take place at all? If so, whom will they bring to the surface, taking into account the probable deepening of the social crisis?

The undoubted consequence of a referendum will be the further disintegration of society. Not only the former autonomous entities, but entire regions could take advantage of it to try to go their own way. Moreover, in an atmosphere of universal disillusionment, the results of a plebiscite could be unpredictable. After all, the Lithuanians, despite all the favorable predictions, rejected the idea of a presidency. Last, and most important: Never in world history has a constitutional democracy emerged from a vote "for" and "against." On the contrary, the mechanisms of direct democracy have been exploited eagerly by dictatorial regimes.

Even if the idea of a referendum has been put forward as a potential threat to a political adversary, it has to be taken seriously, because it turns the political stage into a zone of constant hostilities. Yeltsin's opponents are already beginning to blackmail him with the threat of a plebiscite. It cannot be ruled out that we will soon have a war of referenda, because in these days of general dissatisfaction you could collect a million signatures in support of any idea you like. Even the idea of incorporating Russia into the United States of America.

In short, the destabilizing consequences of the shock transformation of policy are obvious. And they far outweigh the negative "fallout" from the compromise scenario. It is now far more important to halt the spiral of confrontation that is pushing us toward a new authoritarianism. The president has already demonstrated a talent for alliances by reorganizing his cabinet. It would be logical if that talent were also asserted in relations with parliament, however much certain deputies may seek to provoke Yeltsin into a retaliatory strike. In this instance retreating from the idea of a referendum would not mean giving ground, but showing good sense and wisdom. V. Havel, for instance, did not persist stubbornly when his idea for a referendum did not meet with support.

At the same time it would be quite natural for the Russian president to offer for nationwide discussion his own draft for the constitution and state structure. Society cannot speculate on the merits of a "pig in a poke." Finally, all social forces should be brought in to participate in the discussion of the peaceful transformation of power into a more effective form.

As for our representative power, factors for influencing it peacefully are not yet exhausted. Why, after all, should we be any less capable of civilized behavior than other states?

Will we have the wisdom to stop playing at lists? Will we realize that there are powerful groupings in society which are currently waiting in the wings but are prepared to take power on a wave of revolutionalism?

People's Assembly Changes Chairman, Not Course

MK0906152992 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 2

[Mikhail Karpov article under "Patriots" rubric and general headline: "Russian People's Assembly Board Changes Chairman, But Course Remains Same"]

[Text] On Sunday, 7 June, the Russian People's Assembly [RPA] Central Council plenum supported the practical actions and political course implemented by its cochairmen, board, and people's deputies representing the RPA. It also decided henceforth to work in opposition to both the government and the president. It plans to direct particular efforts toward preserving the movement's "special place" in the political spectrum. In so doing the RPA preserves its claim to be what Constitutional Democratic Party (Party of People's Freedom) Chairman Mikhail Astafyev called the "white opposition." Together with the old course, the Central Council has decided to also retain its partnership with its longstanding allies and has abandoned the creation of new blocs and coalitions (although such suggestions have been made). For example, a full merger with the Russian National Union has been proposed. According to Ilya Konstantinov, a leader of the Christian Democrats, this suggestion was rejected because the Russian National Union is not very keen on the idea itself.

There have also been appeals for closer cooperation with individual communist and left-wing socialist groups. There has been no response to these appeals. Presumably for fear of being compromised by such ties which are not considered "proper" in Russia today.

After many other political parties and social movements tired of the cochairmanship—which initially seemed such a democratic institution—because of the disorder that it often caused, it was the RPA's turn. However, the movement has retained its cochairmen, and the creation of a political council consisting of leaders of the parties comprising the RPA has been postponed.

Nevertheless, there have been changes in the RPA leadership. Viktor Aksyuchits has been replaced as chairman of the board's movement by Ilya Konstantinov. The latter himself has stated, however, that this is not due to any major political factor. As has been noted, Aksyuchits was really overburdened with other work, with the result that recently the movement's organizational questions have had to be handled by Ilya Konstantinov anyway.

In addition, there has also been a noticeable tendency toward a more centralized management of the movement. As a result of that tendency its structures will henceforth have a more precise organizational form and some of the finances of individual members will be combined. According to the RPA leadership, this will enable it to more effectively resolve the questions facing it and achieve its goals with greater determination.

Plenum Supports Referendum

MK0906153692 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 2

[Yuliy Lebedev article under "Patriots" rubric and general headiline: "Russian People's Assembly Board Changes Chairman, But Course Remains Same"]

[Text] Judging by the plenum speeches, the Russian People's Assembly [RPA] leaders were highly skeptical of the cadre changes in the Russian Government and prefer to rely on future elections. The plenum adopted a decision that the RPA will not defend the Supreme Soviet (where, incidentally, it has virtually no deputies) and will support "Democratic Russia's" idea of holding a referendum on the possibility of new elections. In the patriots' opinion, however, there should be fresh elections not only to the legislature but also to the presidency itself.

Thus the RPA intends to begin preparing for elections. That will not be easy to do because, in the words of Dmitriy Ragozin, member of the RPA Central Council Presidium, the economic collapse in the country has meant that the majority of entrepreneurs simply have no money left for politics. That is why the RPA is setting up its own fund, which will be used to finance party development, trips by leaders, and publishing. "At the crucial moment our entire structure will surface like a huge submarine complete with slogans, leaflets, and leaders' pictures," Ragozin explained.

At the plenum Deputy Nikolay Pavlov presented a draft statement on the creation of a council of opposition forces, which will include representatives of left-wing parties. However, the council did not receive a hearing at the plenum and the adoption of the statement has been postponed. According to Ragozin, despite the refusal to create joint structures with the communists, the RPA will continue consultations and joint work with them in parliament. He stated, however, that when establishing contacts the democratic patriots will give preference to those communists for whom the red flag is not an ideological symbol but a state symbol.

At the end of its work the plenum approved an "obituary notice" in connection with the untimely administrative demise of Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov.

Formation of Committees Urged

LD0806204792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2005 GMT 7 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russia is on the verge of the abyss. In order to save the country, all patriotic forces must forget their quarrels and grudges and unite. Such is the opinion of the leaders of the Russian People's Assembly [Rossiyskoye Narodnoye Sobraniye—RNS], a center-right organization which has criticized the government harshly ever since it was formed.

A session of the central RNS council noted that the time for debates and resolutions has passed, and that the organization has already started acting. As action, they mainly understood the formation of an opposition deputies' bloc, Russian Unity [Rossiyskoye Yedintsvo], the collection of signatures calling for the resignation of the president, and the formation of committees for solidarity with the population of Ossetia, the Dniester Region, and other hot spots.

'Working Russia' Gains Support for Resignation

OW0306141392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Working Russia movement has announced that this party has collected more than 250,000 signatures under the demand for holding a referendum on Yeltsin's resignation. This movement's leaders do not doubt that before August 1 they will manage to collect 1 million signatures required for holding a referendum. The political situation is extremely favourable for this, they said.

Certain technical problems may arise, however, the leaders admit. To make the collection of signatures more efficient, this movement intends to set up stationary signature-collection stations, guarded by volunteers, in Moscow and in other cities. The movement claims that there are about 1,000 officially registered signature collectors in Moscow alone.

Democratic Party Forms Opposition to Yeltsin

LD0306135692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 3 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—Russia's Democratic Party has decided to form an opposition to the president and his radical economic reform plan, Ilya Roytman, deputy chairman of the party, said at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday [3 June].

The decision will have to be approved by the party board on June 20.

The governmental policy is widening the gap that separates the country from a market economy and normal ownership relations and does not differ much from the previous regime, Roytman said.

He said the party does not demand a resignation of the president or the government.

Party leaders criticised Yeltsin's policy of referendums as an attempt to distract people from the failure of economic reforms and split the society.

In its appeal, the party urged Russian people "to reject ruinous attempts to set the flywheel of referendums and counter-referendums in motion".

The participants in the news conference said the new opposition block "Civil Union" will be established at a founding conference on June 21. The union comprises the Democratic Party of Russia, the people's party "Free Russia", the newly set up union "Renovation" created on the basis of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and the parliamentary faction "Smena—New Policy".

All these parties believe Russia should be an "integral, supra-ethnic, strong and democratic" state.

"We can present a programme to correct the current course of the government," Yevgeniy Malkin, Democratic Russia political council deputy chairman, said.

He said the society is facing a confrontation between radical parties and politicians advocating constructive method of activities.

Socialist Parties Unite To Form Leftist Bloc

LD0306125892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 3 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow June 3 TASS—Leaders of five parties of socialist and communist orientation announced on Wednesday [3 June] that they united to form a block of leftist forces.

Leader of one of the parties Aleksandr Buzgalin told ITAR-TASS the organisers of the block see it as a powerful opposition movement which will stop the country's shift towards a catastrophe.

The movement will oppose Stalinism, chauvinism and nationalism, Buzgalin said. We shall advocate a democratically regulated market and a planned economy in the interests of workers, Buzgalin added.

Democratic Russia Decides Wording of Referendum

LD0806211992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1815 GMT 7 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Jun—The Democratic Russia movement has finally decided to hold a campaign of nationwide referendums in Russia and has approved the three questions for them. After barely avoiding an internal split, the movement has taken a much tougher position toward the Russian president, whom it has thus far almost unreservedly supported, and now threatens to start opposing him.

A plenary session of the council of representatives of Democratic Russia, which is the movement's supreme body in the period between congresses, rejected by an overwhelming majority a proposal put forward by the Moscow oblast organization not to initiate a campaign of referendums. Following stormy discussions, three questions were approved for the referendums. The following wording turned out to be the least controversial: "Do you agree that the president of the Russian Federation should have the right to put major state and public issues to a nationwide vote, and to hold referendums in the Russian Federation?"

The most heated discussion, which nearly brought the plenum to an end, concerned the wording of the question on land. Here there was a clash between the Moscow and St. Petersburg Democratic Russia organizations, and as a result, it was decided to submit both wordings to the judgment of regional organizations.

The Moscow wording, which has the support of the movement's coordinating council and has been approved by the Russian president's "team," is as follows: "Do you agree that every citizen of the Russian Federation should have the right—both individually and jointly with other persons—freely to own, utilize, and dispose of land?" The authors believe that the words "jointly with other persons" should help win the votes of collective farmers.

The radically inclined St. Petersburg representatives, headed by Marina Salye, cochairperson of the movement, proposed their own wording, which says that "the right to private ownership of land, that is the unconditional right of every citizen of the Russian Federation to own, utilize, and dispose of land, should be enshrined in the constitution of the Russian Federation."

The radicals, headed by Marina Salye, succeeded in carrying through their proposal, opposed by the Moscow Democratic Russia leadership, to convene a constituent assembly. Now in the third referendum question it is proposed that a new constitution be adopted "by a constituent assembly—a special people's representative body—elections to which should take place not later than March 1993."

It was with some difficulty that the leadership of "Democratic Russia" managed to avoid a split in the movement. The radical wing, whose core is formed by St. Petersburg members, demanded that an extraordinary congress of the movement be convened, which will then form an opposition to the president and the government. The first day of the plenum was practically disrupted because the group calling itself "the organizational committee for convening the congress" circulated a statement putting forward its demands to change the line of "Democratic Russia" and form an opposition to the Russian leadership. In order to avoid the split, the plenum of the council of representatives dissociated itself from this document and just "took note of it for consideration."

Thanks to a compromise reached between the two factions, the "Democratic Russia" council of representatives adopted a political statement in which it warned the Russian leadership that if it "refuses to carry out the democratic reforms," the movement will turn itself into an opposition. The plenum of the council of representatives stated that a number of actions by the Russian leadership have "gone beyond the limits of an acceptable compromise," and that its cadre policies, especially the new government appointments, "should be immediately corrected." Democratic Russia believes that "the constructive interaction between the Russian president and democratic movement has broken down, and that this might lead to the loss of popular support for the reforms."

Attack on Social Democrat Termed 'Political'

OW0806224092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1913 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a press conference in Moscow Monday [8 June], representatives from the "New Russia" political block called the attack on Sergey Belozertsev an act of "political violence".

The former People's Deputy of the Soviet Union, member of the leadership of the Social Democratic Party

[SDP] was found unconscious on the platform of Kazanskiy Station in Moscow with head wounds. Belozertsev is still in the hospital.

The leader of the SDP Oleg Rumyantsev linked the Belozertsev attack to his participation in the investigation of the coup leaders, and with his statements that members of the former KGB have infiltrated the new power structures, including the President's administration. These documents have disappeared, Rumyantsev said.

The leader of the People's Party Telman Gdlyan said that the "New Russia" block has two witnesses to the incident who saw "two men in blue berets and one in civilian dress threaten" Belozertsev on the platform. Gdlyan says they dealt a "professional blow".

The Russian Internal Ministry said that it is too soon to make any conclusions on the incident.

Article Assesses Impact of, Reaction to Reform

PM0906104592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by Captain Second Rank O. Odnokolenko: "Not Yet Fall...It Is Five Months Since Reform Began"]

[Text] So, today we are building another "bright future for all mankind"—capitalism this time. Socialism, so it now turns out, is not at all bright and not at all the future. And, indeed, it never had any prospects at all. It turns out that, apart from us, the whole of the rest of mankind was well aware of this, and now we too, if numerous public opinion polls are to be believed, do not wish to live either under socialism or, still less, under communism. The man on the street, uncontaminated by the latest global idea—which in fact is no longer a secret!—wants simply to live like a human being. We were, in fact, promised such a life 2 January this year. They only asked us to be patient—until the fall.

It is not yet fall. Still less are five months a Stalinist five-year plan (under a totalitarian regime—there is no getting away from the truth—people used to wait longer), but it is probably possible to sum up some very preliminary results. Even despite the fact that the reformers are essentially only beginning to implement what was planned, and 90 percent of industrial enterprises remain in the state's hands. So...

At present our market is turning out a strange one. Some people call it a vulgar bazaar, while others nonetheless call it a market, but a colonial one. In the sense that there are hardly any home-produced goods on the counters, but mainly imported ones, and of third-rate quality at that. Where can we get home-produced goods from, if Russian industry is in an almost comatose state? Somehow you do not see many entrepreneurs with a strong craving to shoulder the burden not of a commercial store but of a plant or even a little plant. They say: No one has yet grown rich by producing goods for the people.

"Full de-industrialization is now taking place in Russia"—this is how Andrey Golovin, spokesman for the "Smena—Novaya Politika" parliamentary faction, assessed the situation, addressing a meeting of Russian businessmen 26 May. The same viewpoint is also adhered to by the well-known French political scientist and economist Guy Sorman. According to him, the economic reforms in Russia are inconsistent, and this is expressed "in the lack of changes in the structure of production with a view to making it competitive." The French economist is also skeptical of the IMF's recommendations. "It would be a big mistake for the Russian Government to blindly follow IMF advice," Sorman said, "because, ever since the fund has been in existence, not one country that has heeded its advice has grown rich or increased production."

Statements by Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Russian Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists, smack of still greater hopelessness. Addressing the founding conference of the All-Russian "Renewal" Union, he declared that the production slump is assuming an irreversible nature. This, in his opinion, is the chief threat to the reforms. In the opinion of Arkadiy Volskiy, during the transitional period it is necessary to increase state influence on the economy, "while subsequently reducing state interference as the crisis stage comes to an end."

Opinions differ, but Gaydar is still striding out in front. The president, the vice president, and the speaker of parliament have been able to gain an idea of who in Rus has begun to lead a better life as a result, for they set out on tours of the country almost simultaneously—but in different directions.

Aleksandr Rutskoy has been in his native region, Kursk. RIA testifies that there he had to listen to sharp criticism of the course of the reforms. The people of Kursk demanded that Rutskoy "instill order in the economy," halt the rise in prices, protect poorly-off sections of the population, end total speculation, and answer "who is to blame for everything." Rutskoy said that "problems are inevitable" during a period of implementing cardinal reforms. At the same time he remarked that "even a fool can implement reforms at the people's expense." Aleksandr Vladimirovich did not specify whom he had in mind in this case.

Ruslan Khasbulatov had an equally hard time in Kaliningrad. The speaker's position is well known: to place the "price-forming" activity (as well as all other activity, incidentally) of executive power under the control of legislative power.

During Russian President Boris Yeltsin's tour of the Altay and Buryatia, so his press secretary declared, he "received new confirmation that the people believe in him, but the people's patience is not infinite." Nevertheless, the president did not promise the good life right away. He proposes first another hike in prices, after which there will be a period of stabilization, and then a period of relief. To all appearances, Boris Nikolayevich closely links the success of the transformations to the formation of strong presidential power—which, in his opinion, is being objectively impeded by the present Supreme Soviet and the Congress. It is proposed to eliminate their influence by means of a referendum, which will address two main issues: the basic principles of the constitution and private land ownership.

Well, we will live until the referendum or until...For the time being Yegor Gaydar, first vice premier of the Russian Government, is not inclined to dramatize the situation. In his opinion, the situation in the country is all right for the period of unfreezing prices.

Poltoranin Assesses State of Russian Press

PM0906132292 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report on interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government and minister of the press and information, by Tamara Zamyatina of ITAR-TASS; place and date not given: "M. Poltoranin: You Can't Curb the Press"]

[Text] "The two years of Russia's state sovereignty have been a time of great upsurge for the press," Mikhail Poltoranin, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government and minister of the press and information, said. He gave an interview to our correspondent on the eve of Russian Independence Day, which is to be marked as a state holiday 12 June.

When the present Russian leadership was elected, the vice premier recalled, "the new authorities were without a voice or a language: They did not have a single minute of air time on radio or television, or a single press organ: The republic Supreme Soviet 'shared' the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA with the CPSU Central Committee, and later with the Russian Communist Party Central Committee."

The past year alone, Mikhail Poltoranin stressed, has seen the registration in Russia of 2,000 independent publications and dozens of television and radio companies in the regions. In his opinion, "despite the present economic difficulties, many newspapers are adapting successfully to market conditions." Here the vice premier expressed disagreement with the theory that "for the sake of survival newspapers are 'selling themselves' to commercial structures and changing their natures." "Has the newspaper with the biggest circulation—ARGUMENTY I FAKTY—sold out, or MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS?"

Government subsidies to a number of publications, he added, also do not mean they have been "bought," because budget funds are allocated to both democratic and opposition publications. For instance, since the beginning of the year PRAVDA has received 21 million rubles [R], SELSKAYA ZHIZN—36 million, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA—4 million, and about R4 million have been allocated to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (the size of subsidies depends on the size of the publications' print run).

The vice premier spoke sympathetically about the children's newspaper GLAGOL, which has been granted premises and equipment in the House of the Russian Press. Clubs are being formed at the editorial office, he reported, where young journalists will learn newspaper design and computer operation. Some R3 million have also been allocated to PIONERSKAYA PRAVDA. According to Mikhail Poltoranin, national and republic newspapers published in national languages have priority in receiving material support.

Here the vice premier noted with regret the low ethical standard of a number of publications. "It is not a question of criticism of the government and president being unacceptable," he stressed. "On the contrary, it is good to see people criticizing you on the basis of facts. You read it, and you think: Well done guys, you are well informed. It helps you to see your own mistakes." But according to Mikhail Poltoranin, certain opposition publications—SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, GLASNOST—receive money from the state budget, but conduct implacable and—this is the important point—unobjective attacks on the government. "From any state's standpoint this is ridiculous—nurturing the opposition press out of your own resources. But we deliberately took this step when we declared the demonopolization of the press," our interviewee stressed. Here he highlighted professional conscientiousness, which "has always been honored as the journalist's greatest merit."

Recently, Mikhail Poltoranin said, he has sensed a "powerful barrage of criticism" for having supposedly "let loose" the press. In this connection the vice premier stated: "Our opponents have clearly forgotten that we set up the Ministry of the Press in order to demonopolize the press and ensure its freedom." In his opinion, "those forces in the Supreme Soviet, the government, and the presidential structures that are inclined toward curbing the press resemble the former CPSU Central Committee Politburo." Here he cited a document from the special Politburo file that has been made public, dated 8 September 1989, in which former Politburo members, including Gorbachev, Yakovlev, and Shevardnadze, expressed readiness "actively to oppose the desire of the Interregional Deputies' Group to engage in autonomous publishing activity."

Mikhail Poltoranin regards the present desire by the Russian Supreme Soviet leadership to take control of the property of the IZVESTIYA publishing concern as an encroachment on press freedom. "But they will not succeed," the vice premier stated. According to his information, the Russian Supreme Soviet is also laying claim to six hours of air time on Ostankino television, where the "Dobroye Slovo" ["Good Word"] editorial office is being set up, which "will report on the Russian parliament's victories and merits."

To get rid of the censorship syndrome, the vice premier has recently been coming round to the idea of abolishing the Ministry of the Press. He has consulted with newspaper editors on this subject, but they, as he put it, "begged" him not to disband the ministry yet, because without its support many publications will die. Nonetheless in the near future Mikhail Poltoranin intends to retain for the Ministry of the Press only the functions of legal regulation and mediation between investors and publishing houses, and also among the CIS countries.

Advocating the legal regulation of relations between the mass media and society and the authorities, Mikhail Poltoranin expressed the conviction that "no one at all can be allowed to exert pressure on the press."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Becomes Army Organ

PM0906152592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 1,3

[Commentary "From the Editorial Board of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA"]

[Text] At a meeting with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA journalists 5 June, Russian Defense Minister Army General P. Grachev declared that KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has been granted the status of daily newspaper for the Russian Armed Forces, the central press organ of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. The minister signed the documents required to re-register the newspaper in the name of its new founder—the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. In the next few days, these will be handed over to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information in line with the law.

The decision which has been taken is logical, natural, and necessary. After the collapse of the USSR and the abolition of the USSR Defense Ministry, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA was to all intents and purposes without a founder. For several months, the newspaper's status, the procedure for financing it, and many other questions were not specified, and this created tremendous difficulties for the publication of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and placed its very existence in doubt.

Now, however, with the creation of the Russian Armed Forces and their controlling organs, everything is falling into place. The editorial office itself and its printing base—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's publishing house and printing works—are located on Russian territory. Over two-thirds of our readers live in Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry will assume responsibility for financing KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Finally, the decision on the new status coincides with the position of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA workers' collective. Journalists at KRASNAYA ZVEZDA see their duty as helping to strengthen Russian statehood, regenerating Russia, setting up Armed Forces which are worthy of a great country, and maximizing their combat readiness.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's new status could give rise to a question: Will it not lead to the alienation from the newspaper of those tens of thousands of readers who live beyond Russian Federation borders, in other CIS countries, who have read and subscribed to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA for years and are used to it? We hope and believe that this will not happen. As we know, CIS state heads have proclaimed the need to preserve a single information area. Therefore, no obstacles which would prevent our readers in Ukraine, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, and other CIS countries from having the opportunity to buy KRASNAYA ZVEZDA at newsstands or to subscribe to it at their home or business address should emerge. We hope that no such obstacles will confront our readers in the Baltic Region or Georgia either. In turn, we declare that we have no intention of confining our range of topics henceforth to Russian Armed Forces problems alone. We will do everything possible to ensure that the topics continue to be useful and interesting to all who have read and do read our newspaper across the entire territory of the former USSR. Especially as a large part of the population in today's sovereign states—whole generations—constitutes people who are linked by one fate and who have shared common experiences. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA could remain their common platform.

Considering the financial, organizational, and political realities, it is hard to envisage the creation of any kind of new daily newspaper which would highlight the problems of the CIS Joint Armed Forces in the foreseeable future. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's editorial office does not intend to renounce this function. We are prepared to offer the requisite newspaper space to highlighting measures being conducted within the context of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, as well as to publishing official documents and various materials on the life and problems of CIS armies and countries.

The editorial board declares that KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is interested in maintaining the newspaper's correspondents' offices which are currently operating in Ukraine, Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and possibly even opening new ones in other sovereign states. At the same time, we are ready to propose the most diverse options for resolving this question: from a simple leasing arrangement, to concluding mutually beneficial agreements whereby the editorial team, in exchange for the offer of premises for correspondents' offices, transport, and communications links, would assume specific commitments to highlight the life of a sovereign republic and its Armed Forces. In the event of an army's having its own military newspaper and showing interest in setting up correspondents' offices in Moscow, we are prepared to help in this respect on a mutual basis.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is open to cooperation. Its pages are open to items which will serve the interests of peace and stability in the Commonwealth and beyond its borders and help the constructive solution of defense and security questions in Russia and other sovereign states alike.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is a newspaper for the Armed Forces. But it was always more than simply a military departmental newspaper. It was always a publication founded on the broadest circles of readers. We do not intend to move away from this today. We want to make a newspaper which will be interesting for the serviceman, the veteran, prospective draftees, the soldier's mother, and all who are not indifferent to the fate of the fatherland and that of the Army. We want to make a newspaper which will not divide but unite people. We are convinced that today, at a time when our society is at a difficult and dangerous crossroads, what is required is constructive journalism which rallies the people and instills in them a belief in their own forces and in the regeneration of the fatherland, and which helps society to overcome the current crisis, giving people the spiritual and moral support to do this.

Supreme Soviet

Deputies Discuss Problems in Arms Treaty

LD0906111992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0935 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—According to members of the Russian parliament, reduction of Russia's defense capacity makes it refrain from pursuing the military policy of ex-USSR based on arms balance.

Discussing the Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty at the June 8 second round of the parliament's special session, several deputies of the Supreme Soviet pointed out that considering the amount of stockpiled weapons Russia will be able to follow the undertaken obligations only for a while after which a serious unilateral reduction will be needed to observe the treaty. Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Committee on Defense and Security Aleksandr Piskunov told PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent:

Strategic weapons remain the principal base of global strategic stability. Regarding this issue Russia is willing to retain its strategic ground forces and currently cannot back away from MIRVS [multiple independent re-entry vehicle] and switch to mono-blocks, as proposed by the American party. At present Russia cannot economically stand such transition. According to Mr. Piskunov, ratification of the Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty both by Russia and the USA will first of all depend on the pace and completion of realization of nuclear-free principles proclaimed by Kazakhstan, Byelarus and the Ukraine.

Minister Addresses Health Service Finances

LD0906184992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliament correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 9 TASS—Russian Health Minister Andrey Vorobyov told the parliament today that "Russia is probably the only country in the world where the number of AIDS patients is not increasing". Along with this, he said, the infant mortality rate is below any criticism as compared to Western countries.

Vorobyov said that the central problem is financing the Russian health services. He suggested that the mandatory medical insurance is the only way out of the crisis. He said independent physicians and family doctors, paid by municipalities, would soon shoulder the bulk of services in out-patient clinics.

Mikhail Kuzmenko, chairman of the Central Committee of the Russian Medical Trade Union, proposed a series of measures to take the health services out of the crisis. He said special funds should be formed at the expense of levying a 2.5 per cent tax on incomes of all natural persons engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

The parliamentary hearings ended in the adoption of a decision to create a working group including representatives of the Health, Financial and Labour Ministries, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Medical Workers and the All-Russia Coordinating Strike Committee, to finalize draft regulatory enactments which will cover urgent measures to take Russian health services out of the crisis.

Mortality Statistics Noted

LD0906163592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow June 8 TASS—Parliamentary hearings on the subject of overcoming the public health service crisis opened in the Russian White House today.

In the period between 1987 and 1991 the birth rate decreased from 17.1 to 12.1 per 1,000 of the population, while the death rate went up from 10.5 to 11.4. Infant mortality remained unchanged at 17.4 per 1,000. The three first months of this year brought the figure up to 18. The population growth in 1991 was 0.7, the lowest ever during the past 20 years.

In the Russian regions of Tambov, Tula, Pskov, Ryazan, Novgorod and some others the death rate was higher than the birth rate.

The year of 1991 saw the rise of dysentery, whooping-cough, syphilis and diphtheria cases. Against the first three months of the last year the number of patients with bacterial dysentery, salmonella disease, diphtheria and TB is higher this year.

The health service has 13 thousand medical installations, more than 19 thousand medical and 117 research institutions. There are 127 beds and 95 nurses guaranteed per 10 thousand population.

Official Favors Lower Value-Added Tax

OW0906101892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0942 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-Chairman of the Russian Parliament Yuriy Voronin told IF [INTERFAX] that the initiative to reduce tax rates should come from the government not from the parliament. He believes that the value-added tax should be reduced from 28 to 17-18 per cent, and on food—to 7 percent.

At the same time, the parliamentary commission for the budget, planning, taxes and prices has already drafted a law on making changes in and additions to the current taxing system. According to it, the value-added tax should be cut down to 14 per cent and on food and children's goods—to 7 percent.

The parliamentary commission's explanatory note to the draft law says that the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund often disregard Russia's specific conditions, while the tax rates fixed in accordance with these recommendations are too great, which slows down economic development, increases unemployment and encourages tax evasion. The parliamentary commission suggested that the losses caused by cuts in the value-added tax should be compensated by a "tough tax discipline". In the first quarter of the year the budget received only 50 percent of the 28-percent value-added tax.

Deputy Chairman Assesses Bankruptcy Law

LD0506213792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1920 GMT on 5 June broadcasts a 20-minute program "Outside the Framework of the News" covering the Bankruptcy Law passed earlier today.

During the program correspondent Aleksandr Radov interviews Yuriy Mikhailovich Voronin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Voronin assesses the newly adopted law and its implications.

Voronin begins by explaining the difficulties associated with the legislation, reviewing in particular the various amendments that were proposed and the effect these changes had on the original draft law.

Radov then asks whether there is now a legislative base that will facilitate a speedier reform process. Voronin expresses his doubts that this is the case.

Voronin then acknowledges that the Supreme Soviet should do more to encourage entrepreneurial activity. He continues by citing as an example a piece of tax legislation that went through several changes before finally emerging as an obstacle for potential entrepreneurs. Voronin follows up by stressing the need to reduce the tax burden on businessmen to encourage their activities.

Radov follows with a question on how the Supreme Soviet plans to defend honest businessmen from corruption and monopolies. Voronin's answer is that he hopes the anti-corruption legislation will soon be in place. He continues, saying the Supreme Soviet has prepared a prioritized list of those laws that need to be passed. Voronin elaborates on this theme by talking about the law on privatization. He notes the need to ensure that no social injustice ensues as a result of privatization. He then cites some of the amendments proposed to the law on privatisation which aim to eliminate such injustice.

Radov then asks about the situation regarding the Central Bank and the resignation of Matyukhin. Voronin reiterates that there is no conflict between the policy of the government and Central Bank.

Voronin then notes that the government favors reform.

'Many Flaws' in President's Law on Government

OW0906135592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] First Vice-Chairman of the Russian parliament Sergey Filatov said at a press conference on Tuesday [9 June], that the parliamentary committee for legislation is preparing its own draft law on the Russian government. The president-proposed draft has many flaws, he said.

He also said that he opposed the idea of referendum. Whether or not to hold the referendum on the constitution may be decided only after its draft has been discussed in the regions and the results of the discussion have been summed up.

Touching upon the forthcoming changes in the taxing policy Filatov said that the parliament will assume a tough stance on the value-added tax, but expressed hope that a common language will be found with the government.

He announced that on Thursday the parliament, jointly with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, will consider Russia's joining the economic sanctions against Serbia.

Filatov Outlines Rest of Supreme Soviet Agenda

LD0906140692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, held a news conference today at the House of Soviets. He said that the present session will end work on 10 July and he presented journalists with a list of documents that are still to be studied. He also talked about some problems:

[Begin recording] [Filatov] The second problem facing society is that of armed conflicts in the Dniester region, the question of the 14th Army, and especially the problem between Georgia and South Ossetia which has become particularly acute in the last few days. The conflict between Shevardnadze and Kitovani has worsened in the last few days. We received a very worrying telegram and we are maintaining an almost uninterrupted telephone link connected to North Ossetia, which is on the territory of the Russian Federation.

So you will understand that this represents a particular danger to us and creates tension. Therefore the president and the Defense Ministry require objective information about the events there. We also want to send a delegation of people's deputies there. We have to do something to stabilize this situation.

As you know there was a change in the political leadership in Moscow and once more the law on Moscow is back on the agenda. The first meeting with representatives of the mayor's office and the Moscow Soviet indicates that there will be no easy solutions on this question.

[Unidentified correspondent] The debate on the mass media is scheduled for 20 June. On the other hand there is a law that, in theory, should regulate their activity. Is there not a contradiction?

[Filatov] As far as the mass media are concerned, my position is clear. There is no need to discuss what they write or how they do it; there is a law to that effect. So what is the dispute we have to solve? It is about radio and television. They are state property, but all social and political forces and unions must have a right to use them. We have to set up a governing council that will provide assistance in this question. It would manage radio and television airtime for all social and political forces. I think that there should be several dozen people who would represent parties and unions. They will not have to be deputies, they also could be [word indistinct], but it is up to us, the lawmakers, to set up such a body: Not a monitoring body, but a governing body. [end recording]

Regional Affairs

North Ossetian Troops Placed on Full Alert

LD1006025492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Subunits of the North Ossetian Ministry of Internal Affairs and units of the Vladikavkaz garrison have been put on full combat readiness. This measure follows the seizure at the Vladikavkaz railroad station of 12 self-propelled howitzers which were to be taken out of North Ossetia. Several howitzers left Vladikavkaz in the direction of Tskhinvali. The military hopes there will not be enough gas for them to travel far. Several other howitzers with groups of people on board can be seen in the streets of Vladikavkaz, the NEGA agency reports.

Russian Forces May Aid in Ossetian Conflict

LD0606114292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] The armed forces of Russia and Georgia and military formations from North Ossetia could be brought into South Ossetia to separate the confronting sides, to ensure a cease-fire, and to create conditions for holding tripartite talks in an effort to resolve the conflict. This was revealed today by Khetagurov, chairman of the North Ossetian Council of Ministers, at a meeting with the creative intelligensia of the republic. Commenting on a statement by Russian Defense Minister Grachev on the readiness to defend Russian citizens wherever they live in the CIS, Khetagurov said that the Security Council of the Russian Federation is drawing up the appropriate documents. He said that a special detachment of the Special Purpose Militia Detachment is being set up in North Ossetia numbering up to a 1,000 militiamen. This information has been provided by RIA.

Dudayev Reacts to 'Provocative' Russian Actions

LD0906172392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy June 9 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev described as provocative "actions of the Russian leadership to form the Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation".

Dudayev told a news conference here today "Russia does not have and cannot have any right to decide on the fate of the Chechen and Ingush peoples".

Speaking on possible tensions on the Chechen-Ingush border, Dudayev said "Chechens and Ingushes can themselves solve all disputable issues without the interference of a third side".

The news conference paid much attention to the relations between the Chechen Republic and Russia in the military sphere. Dudayev confirmed the Chechen Republic does not have a single foreign soldier on its territory, and stressed "officers and warrant officers themselves prompted him to speed up the withdrawal of all Russian troops, as the majority of them behaved like barbarians and instigators".

In the words of the president, the withdrawn troops deliberately spoiled materiel and property and destroyed foodstuffs and uniforms.

Russian Troops Leave Chechen, Destroy Hardware

MK0906160592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p3

[NEGA column report: "Checheniya"]

[Text] As Movladi Udugov, Chechen Republic minister of information and the press, reported, the withdrawal of Russian Army servicemen from Groznyy, which began 6 June, is virtually complete.

"This little republic is now the only state in the Caucasus, the CIS, and even the Warsaw Pact today which does not have a single foreign soldier left on its territory," he stated during a telephone conversation with a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent. According to Udugov, Chechen officials have video materials which show that before leaving Checheniya Russian officers destroyed combat hardware and smashed armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, filling their engines with sand.

Officers Evicted

PM1006080592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Ali Kazikhanov: "Officers Withdrawn From Checheniya"]

[Text] Nalchik—The entire officer corps of the Russian Army units stationed on the territory of Checheniya has been transported out of the sovereign republic.

As Movladi Udugov, Chechen Republic minister of information and the press, informed the newspaper SEVERNYY KAVKAZ [North Caucasus], the authorities took this action in response to the statement broadcast on the "Ostankino" channel by Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev that he was prepared to introduce airborne units into Checheniya to protect servicemen and their families.

The Russian leadership's stubborn refusal to recognize the sovereign republic in the North Caucasus had channeled the Chechen Republic authorities' resentment in the direction of military units. The tank, artillery, missile, and aviation subunits stationed on the territory of Checheniya and subordinate solely to Russia could not fail to evoke the distrust of the local leadership, which saw this force as a threat to its security and as a threat of direct interference in the republic's affairs. The garrisons' depots also proved to be a factor of instability, since frequent attacks were carried out by local inhabitants in the attempt to get hold of some weapons....

The result of this whole "policy" has been the eviction of the officers (by May the military units consisted only of officers; rank and file soldiers were not sent to perform their service in Checheniya). The officers will be followed by their families, who "have been allowed to pack up their belongings."

Assessing General P. Grachev's statement as provocative and blasphemous, M. Udugov, Chechen Republic minister of information and the press, stated that "not one serviceman's family in Checheniya has suffered, on the contrary, the Chechen national guard has protected both the families and the servicemen themselves, who were demoralized and were refusing to carry out their duty to defend the military camps."

The press minister also stressed that General Grachev's statement was seen in Checheniya as a sign of the weakness of Russia, which is not capable of settling relations with the Chechen Republic by civilized methods. "If Russia keeps on making threats, then we feel sorry for Russian mothers," M. Udugov said.

Rumors of Dudayev Overthrow, Resignation Eyed

LD0906150492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to a DR-Press report from Groznyy, rumors continue to circulate of a possible early change of regime in the republic and the violent overthrow or voluntary resignation of President Dudayev, as well as the dissolution of the parliament and government. At any rate, it is known that the opposition has formed a shadow cabinet already.

Novosibirsk Rally Wants Yeltsin Accountability

OW0906135992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] About 3,000 residents of Novosibirsk have demanded that President Yeltsin explain, on Russian TV or radio, what measures the government is taking to stabilize the socio-economic situation in Russia. During a massive meeting on Tuesday [9 June], the demonstrators representing Novosibirsk's biggest industrial enterprises, demanded the cancelling out of the arms-industry enterprises' mutual debts and the payment of the long-overdue wages and pensions.

This massive action is expected to give additional meaning to the appeal by the leaders of 19 biggest enterprises of the Novosibirsk region to the Russian leadership, containing similar demands and pointing to an explosive situation in industry, particularly at enterprises undergoing conversion.

Secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions of the Novosibirsk Region Vyacheslav Shiroglazov, who was the organizer of the meeting, said that this manifestation was not aimed at the resignation of the president or the Russian government.

Meanwhile, vice-chairperson of the local branch of the Democratic Russia movement Olga Lesnevskaya told IF

[INTERFAX] that the bureaucratic trade unions, jointly with the managers of industrial enterprises are using the grave economic situation to provoke anti-government actions in Novosibirsk.

Strike Committees Set Up

LD0906110992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0812 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk, 9 Jun—Workers' representatives from Novosibirsk Oblast agreed on a message to the Russian leadership at a mass rally today. They are demanding that reciprocal debts in all economic sectors be set aside, that enterprises' working capital be increased through index-linking, and that wages and pensions be paid. They also decided to form a delegation to hold talks with the government. Columns arrived from factories, works, and other institutions in an orderly fashion and filled the vast central square. The speakers, most of whom were from the defense sector, claimed that corporate debt had doubled within the past two months and that virtually all workforces had gone without their wages for two or three months. Telegrams of solidarity from trade union organizations in the Altay, and Omsk, Tomsk, and other oblasts were read out. Strike committees are to be set up.

Stavropol Cossacks To Expel 1,100 Armenians

LD0906190492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The PRO-ARMENIA agency [as heard] reports that on 7 June, near the Vysokogorskaya stanitsa [Cossack village] in Georgiyevskiy Rayon of Stavropol Kray, two young men of Armenian nationality committed a crime: they raped a girl. As a result of this, the Cossack assembly of Georgiyevskiy Rayon and three adjacent rayons decided that within 72 hours, the territory of Stavropol Kray should be vacated not only by the offenders' families but also by all the Armenians who came to live in the area after 1985. This decision applies to 1,100 people.

This incident could spark off a new hotbed of interethnic conflict. According to some reports, representatives of the Russian Government have arrived in Stavropol Kray in order to clarify the situation.

Bashkortostan Defends Russian Supreme Soviet

MK0806085192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jun 92 p 1

[Radik Batyrshin report under the Bashkortostan rubric: "Small Republic in 'Big-League Politics.' Bashkir Parliament Comes to Russian Supreme Soviet's Defense"]

[Text] A session of the Bashkortostan Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium 4 June adopted a statement in support of the Russian parliament (NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA No. 106).

"Of late, particularly since the Sixth Russian Congress, certain political circles and forces have subjected top Russian organs of state power to groundless criticism in the central press. A sharply negative opinion has been voiced of the activity of the Congress of People's Deputies and the Russian Supreme Soviet. The Russian Supreme Soviet chairman has been subjected to the most flagrant of attacks. Appeals are being issued for the top federal legislative organ to be dissolved and the executive to be given additional powers. Russian President Yeltsin's statements since the congress have not helped to strengthen democratic traditions and enhance the prestige of the state authorities either, since, despite his previous statements in support of the Congress, he has shown solidarity with the one-sided negative assessments of Russian legislative structures and the parliamentary institution as a whole.

"(...) At the same time it must be objectively recognized that the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies substantially amended the course of economic reform and demonstrated its ability to resolve wide-ranging tasks of exceptionally great significance for the future of Russia and its multiethnic people. The Russian Supreme Soviet played a particularly large role in the drafting and signing of the Federation Treaty, which has become an organic part of the Russian Constitution and prevented the breakup of Russia. The bulk of Russian people's deputies favor constructive cooperation with reformist forces within the Russian Government.

"The Russian Supreme Soviet and its leadership represent multinational Russia. Life has shown that in present-day conditions they do in many respects guarantee the stable reform of political and economic relations. We urge deputies at all levels and the peoples of Russia to back the Congress of People's Deputies and the Russian Supreme Soviet. However we think that a fairly strong executive is also essential, an executive that enjoys the people's confidence and can resolutely and persistently implement legislative decisions designed to consolidate various political forces, implement coordinated economic policy in the interests of the peoples of the Russian Federation, and stabilize its socioeconomic situation. Only a balanced legislative and executive with broad support from society can be a fairly reliable guarantee that Russian democracy and integrity will strengthen and the transition to new sociopolitical and economic realities will occur without conflict.

"[Dated] Ufa, 4 June 1992"

The statement adopted by the Bashkir parliament presidium is not the first time that the republic's leadership has intervened in "big-league politics." There were the statements supporting the referendum in Tatarstan and its actions over the Federation Treaty. But this is the first time that the parliament of Baskhkortostan has taken a swipe at the president himself. The aim is clear—any further increase in the power of Yeltsin and his staff at the Supreme Soviet's expense will not be in the interests of the Republic of Bashkortostan. Bashkortostan's relations with the federal government are by no means ideal: The appendix to the Federation Treaty signed by the republic is not recognized by a single Russian ministry. And the economic autonomy it craves on every specific problem is secured through confrontational appeals to Yeltsin himself. The Russian Supreme Soviet has been instrumental in pressuring the government to resolve these problems. The destruction of this counterbalance could lead to imbalance in relations between Ufa and the Kremlin. It is also necessary to bear in mind the fact that Bashkortostan's signing of the Federation Treaty was not greeted rapturously by some Bashkir deputies and national radicals who consider this treaty "shackling," and it has therefore not so far been ratified. Add to that the dioxin problem in Ufa and the prestrike situation at most enterprises in the republic due to nonpayment for deliveries (amounting to 32 billion rubles). Incidentally, 4 June the Supreme Soviet Presidium resolved to ban the export of all commodities produced in the republic, petroleum products included, without payment in advance. The republic's population consider the Russian Government rather than the parliament to be responsible for their troubles since the former fails to respond to cables from the republic's leadership, who promptly inform Bashkortostan's citizens of that fact. The latest example of this is the message from the Bashkortostan Supreme Soviet asking for Ufa to be declared a federal environmental disaster zone, which has also gone unanswered. Naturally, this has not met with a rapturous response from the republic's capital either.

International Affairs

President Kravchuk To Visit France 16-17 Jun

OW0906214792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian President said Leonid Kravchuk will visit France June 16-17 on an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand. Kravchuk will meet with the President and Prime Minister of France, and will also speak in the Senate and meet with French businessmen. A French-Ukrainian agreement and the Paris Charter are expected to be signed, making Ukraine an official member of the world community.

Fokin in Austrian Talks; Communique Issued

LD0906125592 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1318 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Ukraine Premier V.P. Fokin went to Vienna on a working visit between 4 and 6 June, at the invitation of F. Vranitzky, federal chancellor of the Republic of Austria. During the visit, he met with K. Waldheim, president of the Republic of Austria, and H. Fischer, head of the parliament.

During the negotiations between V.P. Fokin and F. Vranitzky, as stressed in the joint communique, an exchange of ideas on a wide range of issues of bilateral relations between Ukraine and Austria and international life took place. They marked the aspiration of the two states to strengthen friendly relations and discussed concrete directions of developing mutually advantageous Ukrainian-Austrian cooperation which corresponds to their national interests and to the building a new Europe, united by common values.

V.P. Fokin informed the Austrian side of the political, economic, and social processes in Ukraine, on the relations between member states of the CIS, ways to peaceful settlement of the conflicts in Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh, as seen by the Ukrainian side, and Ukraine's position on the issues of nuclear and conventional weapons. He emphasized Ukraine's intentions to become a nuclear- free neutral state and to implement the international treaties in the sphere of disarmament and control over weapons. Ukraine's position on payment of the former USSR's external debt was also confirmed.

Federal Chancellor F. Vranitzky stressed Austria's interest in good and friendly relations with Ukraine and also in intensive cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres. He assured the premier of the Austrian side's readiness for cooperation in overcoming the obstacles which Ukraine faces now during the current transitional period.

Members of the Ukrainian delegation met with representatives of industrial and financial circles of Austria. Specific possibilities of expanding commercial and economic links in the spheres of mutual interest were considered; an agreement to draw up in the nearest future bilateral documents which would regulate such a cooperation was reached.

Ukrainian Premier V.P. Fokin invited F. Vranitzky, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, to visit Ukraine on an official visit. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Consumer Coupons in High Demand in Sakhalin

LD0506174292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1312 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Text] Multi-use consumer coupons now circulating in Ukraine are in high demand in Sakhalin, the Far East of Russia. A proof of this is their exchange rate in relation to Russian rubles, which is one to 10. This can probably be explained by the fact that very few Ukrainians live in Sakhalin.

National Affairs

Sevastopol Legal Organs Subordinated to Kiev

LD0906201192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The organs of justice of the Republic of Crimea have reported that a Justice Directorate has been created for the city of Sevastopol which is directly subordinated to Kiev. Thus, Sevastopol has ceased to be subordinated to the Republic of Crimea.

Crimean Stance at Kiev Talks Described

PM0906155192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Eduard Kondratov report: "Crimean Delegation Sets Off for Talks in Kiev"]

[Text] Simferopol—On 8 June delegations from the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Soviets sat around a table in Kiev to negotiate the demarcation of powers between the republics.

This meeting is not simply of great significance. Both sides know for sure that its practical results will determine the political climate and the development of events on the peninsula. The question of holding an all-Crimean referendum on the Crimea's acquisition of independence has not been withdrawn by its parliament but has merely had the safety catch put on. A deadline has also been set—before 10 June. The people of the Crimea will decide after the talks in Kiev what to do about the nationwide poll scheduled for 2 August.

What specific proposals have the Crimeans taken to Kiev? On the eve of the departure of the delegates from the Crimean parliament I met with some of them. In the opinion of S. Yefimov, a participant in all stages of the work on the demarcation of powers, the most important document is to be a treaty on mutual obligations to observe the constitution not only of Ukraine but also of the Crimea. If it is decided that unilateral changes to constitutional norms are inadmissible, the Crimea will receive a guarantee that its future will not be wholly dependent on changes in the political situation in Ukraine.

The Crimean delegation will insist on the legitimation of the Crimean people's right to own land and the peninsula's natural resources. For the moment this demand is a stumbling block between the parliaments. The law on the status of the autonomous Republic of Crimea endowed its population only with the right to utilize land and resources.

In close connection with this the delegates intend also to examine questions of the Crimea's powers to decide its own tax and banking systems and of the relationship between the Crimean budget and the all-Ukrainian budget. The Crimea also needs full independence to implement its own state policy in the spheres of culture, education, health care, and social security.

The talks in Kiev should be expected to proceed with difficulty. It would not be out of place to remind you that it is not yet one month since the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet rejected the Crimea's claims both to state independence and to the powers mentioned above.

Official Sees Crimea as Free Economic Zone

AU0806143492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 8 June 92

[Text] Anatoliy Franchuk, deputy chairman of the Crimean Council of Ministers, has pointed out in an interview for the press that for the time being, it is impossible to build an economically independent Crimea, because it obtains the greater part of its electric energy, minerals, foodstuffs, and other goods, as well as drinking water from Ukraine.

Anatoliy Franchuk believes that the Crimea must first become a free economic zone within Ukraine.

Zhirinovsky Urges Crimean Referendum on Status

OW0806154592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During a meeting in Simferopol, Chairman of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovsky urged the Crimeans to hold a referendum on the Crimea's state status, describing it as the "supreme form of democracy". The Crimea must maintain relations with both Ukraine and Russia, he said.

Zhirinovsky also said that in case of emergency, the Crimea might be turned into an island, and Kerch and Kuban might be linked with a reliable bridge.

Crimean Deputies Create Civic Peace Group

AU0906173692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] A group of people's deputies of the Crimean Republic came forward with a statement with regard to the split of the peninsula that, as the document puts it, started in the Crimean parliament. A persecution campaign has been unleashed from the high rostrum, reads the statement, against those who advocate the integrity of Ukraine and are opposed to secession of the Crimea from it. The hypocritical policy of the initiators of the referendum, the deputies declare, splits the Crimeans in terms of nationalities. The threat of an interethnic conflict with irreversible consequences has become real.

The statement points out that, realizing the high responsibility for peace, well-being, and prosperity of the Crimea, the deputies of the Crimean parliament, coming out in favor of a legal, lawful, and peaceful way of achieving Crimean statehood, have formed a deputy group For Civic Peace and Interethnic Accord.

Crimean Defense Industry Faces Bankruptcy

LD1006024192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Bankruptcy is threatening Crimean enterprises in the military-industrial complex, believes Aleksandr Plotnikov, department chief for special sectors and conversion of the main administration for the economy and market relations of the Council of Ministers of the Crimean Republic. The Crimean enterprises' debts already exceed 1 billion rubles, the RIKA agency reports.

Aleksandr Plotnikov said that the defense enterprises' difficult financial situation is connected both with the insolvency of customers and with the severance of economic links. The Baltic region and the Transcaucasus have already stopped deliveries completely, while Russian partners supplying approximately 70 percent of the Crimean enterprises' requirement of materials and imported components are demanding that they be fully paid for in advance.

Money Funded for Return of Exiled Crimeans

OW0906103292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0942 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's budget for 1992 reserves 7.216.8 million rubles for the return of exiled ethnic groups to the Crimea, the press center of the Republican Movement of the Crimea informed IF [INTERFAX] with reference to a letter received by the Crimean government from the Ukrainian Finance Ministry.

On Monday [8 June], Vice-Chairman of the Crimean Cabinet in charge of the exiled ethnic groups, Lentui Bezaziyev, announced at a Press conference that part of the sum reserved for this programme will be used for returning 51,000 Tatars to the Crimea before the end of the year. Bezaziyev believes that the return of the Tatars will be completed in 1995, not in 1998 as envisaged in the former Union programme.

He also said that by the year 2000, 70,000 Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians and Germans will also return to their heir native places.

Deputies Discuss Nuclear Station Construction

LD0406035692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2100 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] A report from Nikolayev. Deputies' commissions at the local city soviet have started to discuss a revised project at the southern Ukrainian power complex. The section of the project connected with hydraulic engineering was developed by a group of institutes after additional construction work was vetoed in 1989 by the government and a resolution of the the Nikolayev Oblast soviet of people's deputies.

This time the project has been submitted to the deputies in a shorter version, without the Konstantinovka pumped storage hydroelectric station. As to the Tashlyk reservoir, which now serves as a cooling pond for the southern Ukrainian nuclear power station, it has been suggested that it should be divided by an oil-filtering dam. According to the project, the entire hydroelectric complex will be turned into a chain of water reservoirs unconnected with each other, which would prevent any connection between the cooling pond and the Yuzhnyy Bug River.

Union Sets Up Support Center for Armed Forces

LD0506163392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] A center in support of Ukraine's Armed Forces has been set up by the Writers' Union of Ukraine. In his interview for the press its chairman writer Yuriy Bedzyk stated that the main trend in the activities of the center will be the enhancement of spiritual and creative potential of Ukraine's writers for the benefit of building Ukraine's national Armed Forces. In its statement the center called upon the men of letters to promote the formation of the Ukrainian Army. Soon a seminar of young military servicemen engaged in literary activities will be held jointly with the Ministry of Defense. It is envisaged that this seminar will function on a regular basis.

New Local Publications 'Sharply Criticized'

AU0806193792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] The Ukrainian People's [word indistinct] of Ciscarpathia, which unites public organizations of the oblast of Ukrainian [word indistinct] has sharply criticized the newspapers PODKARPATSKA RUS and RESPUBLIKA. These are new publications of the society of Ciscarpathian Ruthenians and of the so-called Ciscarpathian Republican Party.

The resolution adopted on this matter points out that the aforementioned publications, begin quote, openly advocate the creation of a separate state—Ciscarpathian Rus—in Ciscarpathia and its possible future union with Hungary or Czechoslovakia, end quote.

The newspapers cast a shadow over the Ukrainian people, their history, culture, and state symbols and stir up hostility among Ukrainians of different regions.

Byelarus

Kebich Urges Stronger Executive Authority

OW0906190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 90—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Byelarusian government Vyacheslav Kebich said that the executive authority must be strengthened. "I'm convinced that if the current powers of the executive authority are not broadened, there will be no order in the republic," he said. He explained that he meant the entire vertical structure of the executive authority. The decisions taken by the Cabinet are not binding for the regional executive committees which, in their turn, cannot ensure the implementation of their own resolution. Such a situation is inadmissible, said Kebich.

He believes that the forms and methods of strengthening the executive authority should be determined in strict accordance with the democratic norms. He said that the government might be given as much authority as the governments in Britain, Germany or Japan enjoy. "To act recklessly and take uncompromising decisions, the way Yeltsin does and Gorbachev did, is inadmissible, he said.

Kebich noted that a national currency will be introduced in Byelarus on the conditions that, first, the supply of goods exceeds the demand in them and, second, that the borders are completely locked so other countries bordering on us neither pump out this money nor spend them on goods.

Speaking about the plans of the opposition to hold an all-Byelarusian referendum on confidence to parliament and government, Kebich said that "the coming of other political forces to power may have a negative impact on the economic situation". He said that he could feel this during his recent visit to Israel, when individual entrepreneurs, referring to possible consequences of the referendum, showed a lot of caution in relation to his proposal to invest in the Byelarusian economy. The Byelarusian prime minister said that he offered the opposition leaders posts in his government on many occasions. All in vain.

Kebich Notes Need for Centralized Ties

LD0906140292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By BELTA correspondent Vladimir Glod for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, June 9 TASS—Centralised ties, which collapsed together with the Soviet Union, are necessary to stop economic collapse, according to Vyacheslav Kebich, the Byelarusian prime minister. "That is not nostalgia over the former Soviet Union, it is an objective assessment of the situation which has taken shape", he told the local "BELORUSSKAYA NIVA" newspaper on Tuesday [9 June].

Heads of many industrial enterprises in the republic are still waiting for the government to give them everything necessary for production and do not "think themselves" where to get the resources, according to Kebich.

Moreover, they want to use the raw materials supplied by the government and sell the products at their own wish, he added.

The consequences of perestroyka are equal to those of a war, the prime minister concluded.

Kebich said he understands that Russia has to introduce free prices on energy resources. If Russia is to get help from the International Monetary Fund it has to agree to its tough terms, he explained, adding Byelarus will have to follow suit when it becomes an IMF member.

Statistics Committee Details Economic Situation

LD0906171492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1418 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Anna Gladysheva]

[Text] Minsk, June 8 TASS—A package of research by the Byelarusian State Committee for Statistics published today, shows a rapid growth of the turnover in the republican commercial trade. Last year it was worth 100 million roubles or 0.3 per cent of the whole turnover, but at the first quarter of this year it amounted to 0.6 per cent, which mostly accounted for the price increase. There is also a quantitative rise in the purchase of goods.

People buy most willingly spirits, produced both at home and abroad, which can be easily bought at commercial prices and rather difficult to be acquired at state prices. The demand for household appliances and electrical devices is lower. It is quite natural as, for instance, prices for a refrigerator in private second-hand and commercial shops are eight times higher than a state price which most people cannot afford to pay, either.

According to statistics, the situation in the sphere of manufacturing consumer goods in the republic is in general tolerable, and regarding a number of items is rather favourable. For example, the production of washing machines in January-May increased by 1.3 times, electric coffee-mills—1.2 times, irons—4.6 times. The manufacture of electric mixers grew by 3.4 per cent, watch and clock and cameras—by 3.7 per cent. The situation is more difficult for enterprises manufacturing metal-consuming products and those depending on deliveries of complete units from other Commonwealth republics. These enterprises are experiencing a continuous production recession. Still as of today, Byelarus is occupying the first place among other Commonwealth states in production of television sets, refrigerators, freezers, TV and radio equipment, moto-cycles, bicycles and watch per 1,000 of the population. According to the State Committee for Statistics, the shortage of these items on the home market accounts for the reduced production and large sales of products beyond the limits of the republic.

Some sections of the published account are devoted to the survey of the situation in training specialists at various educational establishments and the progress in the implementation of the programme on the elimination of consequences of the Chernobyl accident, specifically in the field of house-building and construction of cultural objects. Both spheres give experts and the government sufficient grounds for analysing and further planning their actions under conditions of the sovereignty of the republic.

Resolution Passed on Commercial, Fishing Fleet

OW0906173492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1510 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Byelarusian government Tuesday [9 June] passed a resolution to form its own commercial and fishing fleet. The republic may be the 30th land-locked country in the world to have its own fleet.

Byelarusian Vice Prime Minister Stanislav Bril said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] that Byelarus will raise the question forming a committee on the division of the former Soviet fleet at the next Commonwealth summit. He said that it is possible to staff a one-nation Byelarusian team of ships on the Baltic Sea from the number of Byelarusian sailors currently serving there.

The republic will also use the ports of Kaliningrad, Gdynya, Ventspils, Klaipeda and Yuzhny (near Odessa).

Ministry's Ban on Communist Parties Overturned

LD0906195592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1744 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By BELTA correspondent Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, June 9 TASS—Byelarus's Supreme Court has recognised as unjustified the Justice Ministry's refusal to register the Party of Communists. The newspaper SOVETSKAYA BELARUSSIA, which published an interview with adviser to the republican Supreme Court chairman Slavomir Antonovich today, reports the details of the case that caused an uproar in the republic.

The motive for denying registration was the ministry's conclusion that the party formation procedure was breached: Several protocols of meetings did not have information about the results of the vote and powers of party supporters' representatives. In the ministry they decided that the party being formed was not new but only changed its name and proclaimed itself a successor to the Communist Party of Byelarus.

Antonovich said the court came to the conclusion that the requirements of "the interim resolution on the procedure for the formation and operation of public associations in the Republic of Byelarus" were not violated. As for succession, it follows from explanations by representatives of the political committee and the content of the founding congress's documents that under the congress viewed the term "succession" as carrying on the best traditions of the Soviet Communist Party rather than succession to legal rights.

Pronouncements by several delegates about the need to transfer part of the Byelarusian Communist Party's property to the Party of Communists of Byelarus were their personal view and did not underlie documents that were adopted by the congress. Documents testify that a new party was founded at the congress rather that the suspended activity of the Byelarusian Communist Party was resumed.

The collegium of judges arrived at the conclusion that the established procedure for forming a new party was not violated, the goals and principles guiding the activity of the Party of Communists of Byelarus, reflected in its charter, are not at odds with the constitution and laws of the Republic of Byelarus. Therefore, the Justice Ministry did not have the right to deny registration to this party.

The Party of Communists of Byelarus has 16,000 supporters in the republic today. But Sergey Kalyakin, a plaintiff of the political executive committee, said at the court session that "the Party of Communists of Byelarus refuses to be the guiding force."

Moldova

Further Reportage on Cabinet Resignation

AU0906153492 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] In the new, modern, all glass and steel building of the Moldovan parliament, under a dark and sullen rainy sky, the proceedings of the eighth session of parliament resumed today at 1000, as scheduled.

Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, chairman of the parliament, opened today's meeting by highlighting its importance and by briefly reviewing the situation on the left bank of the Dniester after the foreign military involvement, as well as the efforts made by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova—at all levels and structures—aimed at ameliorating that situation. Thus, he mentioned contacts that were made within the joint and conciliatory commissions, the meetings initiated by Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu, and many other such efforts.

Mr. Mosanu also saluted the presence in parliament hall of the deputies coming from the eastern rayons of the

Republic of Moldova, assessing that, quote, it is much better to settle problems in this hall, than in trenches, unquote.

The agenda of the meeting—consisting of 11 issues—was then announced. As a matter of fact they were sets or packages of issues, draft bills, and briefings concerning the government's activity schedule, taxes, and measures aimed at implementing the 27 May decision of parliament concerning the amelioration of the situation in the Dniester region with respect to the foreign military involvement. The latter issue involves a package of draft bills concerning the organization of territorial administration, the election of local administrative bodies, the state budget, health care, foreign affairs issues, parliament's disposition and control functions, and organizational issues.

Two main ideas could be noted in the positions expressed by the deputies. On the one hand, the idea that discussion of measures to achieve a cease-fire should precede discussion of other issues—such as government, taxes, and so on—considering that, quote, there is no point in talking about economic measures as long as shots are being fired, unquote.

On the other hand, two deputies from Tiraspol tried to convince the other 294 deputies in the hall that the first issues to be discussed should be measures concerning a truce, whereby the draft bill regarding the organization of territorial administration should be granted priority. That would imply the organization of the land in villages, towns, counties, and municipalities, and the idea of federalizing Moldova could be brought up by them.

President Mircea Snegur then took the floor.

[Begin Snegur recording] Esteemed parliament, I would like to brief you on a decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova issued on 8 June.

The Republic of Moldova is going through a period of affirmation of its status as an independent and sovereign state, a period that coincides with radical transformations regarding democratization of society, introducing a market economy, significant changes in the mentality of each citizen, and the creation of a new juridical framework. These radical transformations are unavoidably accompanied by certain temporary economic depressions and the subsequent reducing of the population's living standards. These problems have been amplified by the political problems caused by the pro-imperial and communist forces, which then turned into an armed conflict. Those problems made it necessary for certain harsh and unpopular measures to be taken, which in their turn caused distrust and dissatisfaction with the policy of the government. In spite of its unpopular character, the government continued firmly implementing the basic principles of market economy: The liberalization of prizes, tariffs, interest rates, and salaries, the reorganization of property, the de-monopolization and the introduction of fair competition, the reforming of the instruments and methods by which the economy is being led, and the social and economic protection of the population. That policy was not properly understood and endorsed by certain groups of the population, by certain political forces, and—regretfully—not even within our supreme legislative body.

Under such circumstances, considering the stipulations of Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Moldova concerning the government of the country, the Government of the Republic of Moldova decided to forward to the president of the Republic of Moldova its request to resign as a government in its current composition. All ministers have signed the document, except for Mr. Anatol Plugaru [minister of national security], Mr. Ion Costas [minister of defense], and Mr. Constantin Grigore Antoci [minister of interior]. They are ministers who abstained from resignation considering that there is a state of emergency in the republic. Minister [of culture] Ion Ungureanu has also abstained.

So the government forwarded to me this request for resignation. I examined this request, and—as a consequence—I canceled my departure for Rio, where I was supposed to attend the world conference on environmental protection. I will proceed with the reshuffling of the government. This will take me a certain amount of time, considering the fact that there is a whole series of diplomatic activity scheduled—first of all the signing of the economic and trade cooperation treaty with the United States, the signing of the political and economic convention of the countries in the Black Sea region, and so on. Anyway, we believe that before the end of this month, before the end of this parliamentary session, the cabinet reshuffling will be completed. [end recording]

The parliamentarians then took a break, which they used to consult with each other.

Resignation Accepted

OW0906160192 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1510 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur approved the resignation of the government and speaking at a session of the Parliament late in the day Tuesday [9 June], asked for two weeks to form a new cabinet and present its staff to Parliament. The resignation of the cabinet headed by Valeriu Muravschi was made at a morning session of the Parliament Tuesday. No reasons were given for the resignation.

In his speech the President agreed that emergency steps must be taken to end the bloodshed in the Dniester conflict region, but rejected the suggestion that Moldovan police units be withdrawn from the area. Snegur stressed that the left bank region is an integral part of Moldova and demanded that the armed units of the Dniester guard and Cossacks leave the region. He supported restoring "the legally elected executive powers" to the Dniester region.

The Moldovan Parliament passed a resolution to form a committee to develop a solution by the Parliament to the problem. The committee comprises representatives from all deputy fractions and is headed by Deputy Chairman of the Parliament Victor Pushka.

Deputies' Vote for Cease-Fire Reported

LD0906185392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 9 Jun (TASS)—At the Moldovan parliament's evening session deputies adopted a decision in principle by which the conflicting sides in the Dniester republic are obliged to cease fire from 2000 Moscow time today.

A mixed commission of parliamentary deputies and representatives of the military formations is to be formed to work out the mechanism of the cease-fire. The decision orders the withdrawal from the left bank [of the river] of military equipment and the servicemen of the 14th Army who are servicing it and that they should not take part in military exercises.

The session will resume its work tomorrow. It will again start with a quest for ways of ultimately resolving the issue of establishing peace in the Dniester republic.

'Relative Calm' Noted in Dniester Region

AU0906173092 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Septimum Roman report from Chisinau]

[Text] At around 1300, after an approximately two hour break, the eighth session of the parliament of the Republic of Moldova resumed its proceedings to discuss the proposals made by the parliamentary formations and groups. The break was called in order to examine the resignation request that President Mircea Snegur was informed about last night, which was communicated to the parliament during this morning's session.

When the proceedings resumed, the heads of parliamentary formations and groups made proposals in connection with the agenda.

One of the deputies mentioned the fact that there is a fundamental mistake: The parliament and not the president of the republic should decided on the resignation of the government. The president can only decide on the reshuffling of the government. Thus, these are the two problems that should be solved by the parliament: the government's resignation request and the cease-fire in the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester.

Basically, the leaders of parliamentary formations and groups proposed the acceptance of the government's resignation and the endorsement of a decision according to which the sides involved in the conflict should be obliged to immediately stop firing and the 14th Army should withdraw without conditions.

President Mircea Snegur took the floor in order to make certain remarks in connection with his morning briefing, saying that the formulation of—quote—the withdrawal of the sides involved in the conflict—unquote—cannot be accepted before a legal power is established on the left bank of the Dniester. In connection with the proposals made by the parliamentary formations and groups, it was decided that a parliamentary commission will be set up. The commission will draft a new point and include it in the agenda and will draft a decision on the issues that have been discussed. After an approximately two-hour break, the parliament will resume its proceedings at around 1600.

A communique from the Ministry of Defense says that during the night and the first part of the day, the situation in the conflict area was relatively calm. Intermittent firing of automatic pistols and grenade launchers have been registered at 23- and 15-minute intervals and at 1- and 15-minute intervals in the direction of the positions held in Corjova by the defenders of the integrity of the Republic of Moldova. All the attacks of the pro-separatist forces have been repelled. In Tiraspol and other localities on the left bank of the Dniester region units of guardsmen and of Cossacks have been set up according to a decision by the so-called president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. Likewise, the mobilization of reservists and the forced mobilization of Moldovans continues, the communique also mentions. The people who refuse to be part of the separatist army are mistreated and tortured by the soldiers of the so-called Dniester Battalions. In addition, the Moldovans are sent to the front lines to serve as cannon fodder, the communique adds, citing reliable sources.

Cease-Fire Agreement Violated in Dniester

LD1006091192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 10 TASS—Despite the Moldovan parliament's efforts to negotiate a cease-fire and settle the armed conflict in the Trans-Dniester region by peaceful means, firing continued in the zone of confrontation last night.

Police troops in the villages of Cocieri and Dorotskaya of the Dubossary district came under mortar and gunfire. Two policemen were wounded. There was no exchange of fire, a spokesman for the Moldovan Interior Ministry told ITAR-TASS.

According to the press center of the Trans-Dniester republic, guards units frequently came under mortar and rifle fire in the outskirts of Dubossary. No fatalities were immediately reported.

As a result of a temporary truce, workers managed to repair a damaged transformer at the Dubossary hydroelectric power-station and stop up the flow of oil into the Dniester River.

Deputies Seek Ways To Resolve Dniester Crisis

LD1006115892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, June 10 TASS—The Moldovan parliament on Wednesday [10 June] morning discussed a draft resolution on measures to resolve the armed conflict in the Dniester region.

The document calls for a ceasefire, the establishment of a joint commission for the disengagement of armed formations, immediate return of 14th Army units to their stations and a number of other measures to stabilise the situation.

Parliamentarians' opinions divided. Some deputies, including those who came from the Dniester region, believe that it is essential to remove the prime causes of the crisis and, with this end in view, suggest putting an item concerning "a state set-up of Moldova" on the agenda.

Possibilities for granting economic, cultural and, possibly, a certain political independence to Trans-Dniester areas and places of Gagauz community living will be discussed within the context of the issue.

Deputies, who advocate a reunification of Moldova and Romania, also declare against bloodshed. At the same time they see the root-cause of the conflict in "Russia's pro-imperial ambitions" and do not believe in the possibility of an accord with the Dniester leaders.

Feelings ran so high that Konstantin Taushanzhi, a delegate of the Gagauzes, went on a hunger strike, accusing the parliament of inability to tackle the problem of Gagauzia where the situation may develop into a conflict similar to the Dniester one.

The parliamentary discussion will be continued later in the day after an interval.

Commander Skeptical About Regional Settlement

OW1006144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Tex] The commander of the Dniester force, General Stepan Kitsak is skeptical about the Moldovan parliament's ability to bring a regional peace settlement. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX], he said the proposed cease-fire resolution now under parliamentary debate was meaningless unless complemented by measures for the disengagement of the warring sides under control by impartial forces.

The general said Russia's 14th army was unlikely to withdraw from the region because most of the officers were of Dniester residence. Even if a decision on the pullout is taken, he said, everyone will stay except general Yuriy Netkachev, his aide and several other officers.

On the regional force's strength, Stepan Kitsak said it was a secret. A decision was taken recently to announce general mobilization to the Dniester home guards.

Snegur Discusses Conflict With Russia

PM0906195092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Mircea Snegur, president of Moldova, conducted by Sergey Mitin of IMA-Press; place and time not given: "Mircea Snegur: Who Can Guarantee that Russian Tanks Will Not Enter Chisinau?"]

[Text] [Mitin] How would you, Mr. President, assess Moldova's relations with the states which determine regional and world policy—your republic, after all, is located in the center of Europe? What, in your opinion, are Chisinau's foreign policy priorities?

[Snegur] Our geographical position should help us in establishing contacts not just with our immediate neighbors—Romania and Ukraine. They warrant a special discussion—our ties are determined by common borders. Romania is a "sister" country. We form the two parts of a single whole; history has deemed that two Romanian states exist on the land today. We are faced with the need to integrate them, both culturally and economically. Ukraine is a power with a great future and, in my opinion, our relations with it will be as strong as with Romania. However, it is difficult to count on success without simultaneous orientation toward the East and the West. In the East, we know our partners, stretching as far as Japan—these are all the former Union republics. We are interdependent in many sectors, but it is necessary to modernize and reorient ourselves toward the West. We are counting in the first instance on territorially close countries: Turkey and Bulgaria. Republic Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi has just returned from Turkey, where he met with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. Ankara has agreed in principle to grant us credit. We plan to sign a treaty on trade and economic ties in the first half of July, during Demirel's visit to Moldova.

[Mitin] Do your words "history has deemed that two Romanian states exist today" mean that you hope for their unification, as happened in Germany or in Vietnam? In Chisinau, reunification is spoken of perfectly seriously as a working hypothesis.

[Snegur] The history of our question is different from that in the countries you cited. Moldavia became part of the Russian Empire in 1812. In 1918, part of its territory went to Romania, which "returned" to the USSR after a certain time. As a result of these "redivisions," Bulgarian, Gagauz, and Ukrainian colonists appeared in the republic. A multiethnic Moldovan people was formed, if one may put it that way.

It is very difficult today to determine the prospects for unification with Romania. For me, one thing is clear: It is necessary to destroy completely such an ignominious phenomenon as the barbed-wire boundary between the two states. The border with Romania should be open—everyone has relatives on the other side of the Prut river. We will take the border under our own control after a certain time and do away with it. At the same time, I repeat, I would not myself venture to talk of unification. Members of the opposition do not understand my standpoint; they think that I contradict myself, as I was the initiator of the secession from the Russian empire and I have done a lot to revive the language... But it is necessary to know what the people want—people who have been separated for so long from the "non-Soviet" part of Romania, Moldova beyond the Prut.

God willing, the economy will pick up and then people will not want to unite with anyone at all. At the moment, I am far more worried by the problem of Moldova's integrity, the problem of extinguishing the conflict in the Dniester region and restoring all the ties between the right and left banks of the Dniester.

[Mitin] Could you estimate, approximately at least, the losses sustained by the republic during the combat operations?

[Snegur] Daily expenditure on the war comes to millions of rubles. But what do all these figures signify when compared with the human casualties—history will, of course, indict us for having failed to prevent armed conflict. Moreover, the area of the left bank, where 37 percent of Moldova's industrial potential is concentrated, is not contributing a single kopek to the republic budget. Hence the holdups in implementing social programs and paying out wages and pensions.

[Mitin] Does it not seem to you that the situation is reminiscent of the Yugoslav conflict, in which natives of the dominant republic are trying to establish their own state entity on breakaway territory? Is the Yugoslav scenario possible in your country?

[Snegur] Far be it from me to accuse the Russians of anything. One must always remember that in Moldova, 75 percent of them live on the right bank. No one can accuse us of genocide. During the election campaign, I was given identical receptions in Chisinau and Tiraspol. The whole problem lies with the leaders, who want everything to stay as it has been for the last 50 years—in particular, they are refusing to adopt Romanian as the state language and they are opposed to business correspondence being conducted in two languages (I, for instance, signed just before this interview the decree on the republic Olympic Committee in Romanian and Russian).

I do not think the conflict in the republic will grow to the size of the Yugoslav conflict. Enormous efforts to establish peace are being made by our officials, headed by the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and by the people themselves with "trench" diplomacy: Telephone links have been established between the positions, and every day the fighters independently agree with the enemy not to open fire (although the generals then appear on the left side and the firing resumes). But Moldovans are also in the majority on the left bank—they constitute 40 percent; also 28 percent are Ukrainians and only 25 percent Russians. They are trying to impose a federation on us, for which there is no foundation.

[Mitin] Moscow's and Chisinau's views of the conflict differ: In Russia, it is seen as interethnic and in Moldova as political...

[Snegur] Around 20,000 people have already crossed from the left Bank to the right and more than 10,000 refugees have gone to Odessa Oblast. Those who remain must try to piece together their own picture of what is going on. Yeltsin's remarks to the effect that it is necessary to protect Russians in nearby foreign areas is a minor thing compared with what Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev says. He said: I will introduce forces wherever it is necessary to protect the Russian population. That is a Nazi approach: Send the military to the Dniester region for the sake of 100,000 Russians, when there are 460,000 living on the right bank. Then there is Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy: He came and then he returned to Moscow, waved his fist, and then said at the Congress that Russia should use Moldova as an object lesson for the other republics on the way it is going to uphold the Russian population's rights. Nazism again. But I do not really want to react strongly to the Russian leadership's statements on the introduction of troops, although these words are ill-judged to say the least—I am told that Boris Nikolayevich is offended. I am very much relying on Andrey Kozyrev's sober judgement. Very well aware that the Russians have to be protected, he singles out the political aspect of the Dniester region confrontation. In my view, it is at talks between the Russian and Moldovan foreign ministers and then in the context of quadripartite talks that we will resolve the problem—after all, tension was relieved in Bendery.

[Mitin] Despite the different positions of the Russian Federation leaders, are you expecting diplomacy to prevail?

[Snegur] We concluded a very good treaty with Russia and, unlike Moscow, we ratified it long ago. There are many compromise articles in it, including some on the Russians in Moldova. There are healthy forces in Russia with which we must reach agreement. Talks must continue with Yeltsin; otherwise we are in for a protracted war, and, God forbid, internationalization of the conflict.

[Mitin] In your view, what lies in store for the 14th Army? After all, it was its actions that prompted your declaration of war between Russia and Moldova.

[Snegur] It is a small army. As far as I know, the soldiers in it are mainly locals, so they will stay home and the rest can be evacuated. That is, the army must be withdrawn from Moldovan territory—following its interference in the conflict there is no alternative. Meanwhile tanks are still at battle stations. Moreover, according to intelligence data, there are also tanks on the right bank. Who can guarantee that they will not pop up in Chisinau one fine day?

[Mitin] Can you comment, please, on the recent report on deliveries of tanks from Romania to Moldova.

[Snegur] It is misinformation. We have received military equipment from Bucharest, some armored personnel carriers have come, but there has never been any question of tanks. I must, however, point out that Moldova is an independent state and can buy weapons not only from Russia, but from any other country.

Government Accused of Violating Laws

LD0906203892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1739 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Chisinau, June 9 TASS—"The draft programme for stabilizing and reforming the Moldovan economy, worked out by the government of the republic, does not take into account the current economic reality and is unprecedented from the viewpoint of a number of the legislation violations." This conclusion was made by the Collegium of the Moldovan State Department on Privatization after analyzing the sections of the draft programme dealing with privatization.

The collegium points out that in defiance of the law "on privatization," the draft programme does not envisage the use of the people's well-being paper-money, which deprives citizens of the equal starting possibilities in the transition to the market economy. For the first time in the world practice, the government proposes to impose an income tax up to 25 to 30 per cent to be collected from those citizens who refuse to buy shares for money, that is for their non-participation in the process of privatization. The latter should be preceded by the demonopolization of capital, but the draft recommends first to turn state enterprises into state autonomous economic units and commercial joint-stock companies.

The Collegium of the Moldovan State Department considers absolutely inadmissible to infringe on the interests of the rural population. But the draft programme, in contravention of the law on privatization and the land code of Moldova, establishes different methods of privatizing collective farms and state farms, as well as the issue of shares for the cost of collective farms' land instead of the direct allotment of plots to collective farmers. Peasants are also excluded from the process of privatization of the state property.

The collegium decided to consider impossible to use the programme's section on privatization as a state programme for privatization in Moldova and found it necessary to carry it out in accordance with the programme approved by the parliament.

Foreign Minister Tiu Arrives in Bucharest

LD0906205392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1943 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest, June 9 TASS—Moldovan Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu arrived in the Romanian capital on Tuesday [9 June] on a one-day working visit. According to the ROMPRES NEWS AGENCY, the visit is conducted within the framework of bilateral consultations on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Dniester region.

During the talks on Wednesday [10 June] morning Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase and his Moldovan counterpart will discuss issues connected with the continuing process of a political solution of the Dniester region's problems within the framework of the existing quadripartite consultations. The ministers will discuss also the development of the two countries' relations.

Kazakhstan

Supreme Soviet Chairman Appeals For Unity

LD1006052792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 2300 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At the end of the first stage of the session Serikbolsyn Abdildin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, delivered a brief closing address. He noted the major role played by parliament in the life of the sovereign republic and stressed that deputies should always be firm in pursuit of their convictions and promises.

The speaker recalled that without exception, when they were elected in their constituencies, all of them had pursued a policy of unification and preserving friendship between peoples of different nationalities. At present in the hall of sessions attempts are made from time to time to set up groups, sometimes on strictly ethnic lines. This is a cause for profound regret and concern. No good has ever come of such actions and can only give rise to confrontation, for a lack of restraint on the part of politicians never does any good.

Of course we know, the head of parliament went on, that in real life there are rascals among the Kazakhs who beat their breasts and declare themselves to be masters of the land. At the same time there are other cases when the indigenous population is sometimes looked down upon. But all this is the exception rather than the rule and it is up to all of us to work to ensure that such exceptions do not occur in our life. The rule is that the vast majority of the population of Kazakhstan, representing various nationalities, simply cannot live without each other, whether we are talking about work or everyday life.

I call on you to show good sense, Abdildin appealed to members of parliament. Let us remember very recent history. Having begun its work in a stormy manner, the USSR Supreme Soviet finished it very badly. Who now will answer for what happened? The deputies? No. Former President Gorbachev? The same answer. But blood continues to flow in several republics.

As we leave this room let us cast away for ever the habit of threatening to block laws. That is not parliamentary behavior and is far from being a sensible way of resolving problems. In conclusion he thanked deputies for their joint labor.

Foreign Investments Agency Formed; Head Named

LD0906224892 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] A National Agency for Foreign Investments has been set up by decree of the president of Kazakhstan. It is to implement a unified state policy in the area of attracting foreign investments to the republic and to step up work to insure the broad involvement of capital from foreign states, banks, companies, and international organizations in reforming the economy of Kazakhstan. It has been established that the National Agency for Foreign Investments of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a central organ of state management and is under the direct control of the government of the republic.

The basic task of the National Agency for Foreign Investments of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been determined. It is to participate in formulating and implementing state policy for attracting and using foreign investments, creating a well-balanced system of working with foreign investors and measures to stimulate them, insuring protection of the economic interests of the republic and its enterprises, observing national legislation, treaties and agreements concluded with foreign investors, and several other things.

The National Agency for Foreign Investments of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been granted wide powers which suit the tasks entrusted to it.

This decree comes into force with its signing. The document will be published in full in the republican press.

The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan has decreed the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Kalyk Abdullayev as chairman of the National Agency for Foreign Investments.

Union Federation Attacks Budget Legislation

LD0906183992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1640 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, June 9 TASS—The Council of the Trade Union Federation in Kazakhstan is alarmed by the infringements on the civil rights of population in the republic.

The federation has issued an appeal today to people's deputies, working people and trade unions members to draw their attention to the proposed changes in the republican budget for 1992. The Council of Ministers, the appeal says, has called for the abolition, from July 1, of the allowances for resort treatment and annual leaves of working people and their children at the expense of state insurance.

The Council of the Federation says that the proposal runs counter to the agreement signed between the Trade Union Federation and the Cabinet of Ministers for 1992, which provides for budget allocations for health services and leaves for working people and their children. The cabinet's move is also at variance with the president's March decree which provides for the establishment of the state social insurance fund to finance resort treatment of working people and members of their families.

If the government proposal is approved, vouchers priced between 3,000 and 8,000 roubles will be paid out of the recipient's pocket. Many will find themselves unable to afford it. Parents will have to pay 3,500 to 5,000 roubles to send their children to a summer camp, or pay the minimum of 1,500 roubles, which is affordable, but will certainly strain the family budget.

The trade unions insist on working out and adopting a law on state social insurance instead, which will make reforms in this field less painful to working people.

Tajikistan

More on Clashes Between Opposition, Authorities

OW0906193892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 90—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Tajik Cabinet, during two days after President Rakhmon Nabiyev's visit to Kulyab in the Voselskiy region 21 people were killed there as a result of the fighting between opposition volunteers and presidential guardsmen.

Meeting in Dushanbe Monday [8 June] evening the Cabinet members and Nabiyev decided to use Interior troops for separating the warring sides.

According to unofficial reports, units of the Interior Ministry and OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] have already been sent to the conflict zone. However, the Tank Interior Ministry refused to comment on these reports, noting that during two months of confrontation between government supporters and opposition the Interior Ministry kept neutrality.

IF [INTERFAX] note: As PB ["Presidential Bulletin"] reported earlier, during his visit to the Kulyab and Leninabad regions the president sought to persuade local officials and public opinion to accept the results of the May "personnel revolution" which ousted representatives of the Kulyab and Leninabad local government mafia. However, the visit did not justify Nabiyev's expectations, in Kulyab he had to leave a meeting with opposition, and Leninabad residents stressed that they do not intend to change their obstructionist position toward the present Dushanbe Cabinet, though support Nabiyev personally.

Officer Denies CIS Troops Involved in Conflict

LD0706081992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] CIS border units stationed in Tajikistan have taken no part at all in the internal political conflict of this Central Asian republic, maintaining complete neutrality, Lieutenant General Martovitskiy said yesterday in a special statement on national television. This denial was made by the general in connection with rumors that have been flying in the past few days on alleged support by the border helicopter regiment for the illegal armed formations in Kulyab and Leninabad oblasts and their participation in the mass transfer to Dushanbe.

Armenia

Nagorno-Karabakh Official on Talks Participation

NC0906210192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] We do not want to be guests at our own wedding. This is how Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan, chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Commission on Foreign Relations, described NKR's stance on the examination of the Karabakh problem by the CSCE.

In a news conference today at the Journalists House in Yerevan, Melik-Shakhnazaryan declared unequivocally that NKR should take part independently in any conference organized to resolve the Karabakh conflict. He noted that his republic has established ties with Russia, Iran, and a number of other states, and will probably be recognized, as he put it, by certain countries which are influential in their own regions.

Referring to the possibility of international peacekeeping forces being sent to the area, Melik-Shakhnazaryan said: The humanitarian corridor was opened by the people of Karabakh. International peacekeeping forces can only take control of it with our people's (?participation).

Further on News Conference

OW1006135792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Our ultimate goal remains the same - reunification with Armenia" Chairman of the Karabakh parliament's Commission for Foreign Relations Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan announced at a briefing on Tuesday [9 June]. He said that the proclamation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic on September 2, 1991 was a compromise and now the question may be raised on the reunification of these two independent sates.

Speaking about international recognition of Karabakh, Melik-Shakhnazaryan said that his republic maintained close contacts with a number of states, including Iran and Russia. "We are making intensive efforts in this area," he said. "In our estimate," he continued, " by next autumn, the republic will be recognized by some of the countries which have a strong influence on their regions."

Situation 'Unstable' Along Azerbaijani Border

NC0906173792 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Yerevan, 9 Jun (ARMENPRES)—The situation was unstable on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border Sunday and Monday [7 and 8 June]. Although relative calm prevailed in some regions, the overall situation remained tense. In a number of sectors Armenian settlements came under various types of fire.

Noyemberyanskiy Rayon: Voskepar and Voskevan villages came under artillery and rocket fire on the night of 7 June and the morning of 8 June. Substantial damage was inflicted on the buildings. There were also injuries.

Tavushskiy Rayon: The situation remains tense. The Azerbaijanis continue to shell the border villages of Movses, Aygepar, and Nerkin-Karmiragpyur, but there have been no casualties. The people are worried about four persons missing from Paravakar. It is believed that the Azerbaijanis took them hostage while they were working in the fields.

Idzhevanskiy Rayon: Aygehovit and Berkaber villages came under fire. The village guards returned the fire.

Araratskiy Rayon: The rayon soviet told our correspondent that the exchange of fire is continuing intermittently along the Armenian-Nakhichevan border. A resident of Yeraskhavan was slightly injured on Sunday. The enemy is directing provocative machine-gun fire at Yeraskh from positions in Sadarak village. The Armenian side is occasionally forced to return the fire.

Kapanskiy Rayon: Geganush village came under machine-gun fire yesterday evening from a position in Khazanchi village in Azerbaijan's Zangelanskiy Rayon. There were no casualties. Today was relatively calm.

Gorisskiy Rayon: The situation was calm on Sunday and Monday, and no shootings or clashes were reported. The Goris-Lachin- Stepanakert road is open, and the passport control office is functioning. Humanitarian assistance is being sent to Nagorno- Karabakh along the road. The Goris-Kapan road is temporarily closed, however. The link with Kapan is maintained via the circuitous road passing through Tatev.

Damaged houses are gradually being restored and repaired. The spring work in the fields is over and vegetable cultivation is underway. The rayon is storing animal feed.

The situation was also calm in Vardenisskiy and Megrinskiy rayons yesterday and today.

Railroad Cut Off

LD0906212992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] The situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border has deteriorated. Combat actions began there yesterday. Railroad traffic into Armenia has been stopped, a correspondent from Yerevan's SNARK Agency reported by phone:

[Correspondent Dulyan] The only railroad linking Armenia to the outside world has been cut off. (Ambarsum Kardelyan), head of the Armenian railroad, reports that after supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia killed a child near the station of Khobi on Georgian territory, local residents blocked the railway line. This has halted railroad traffic into Armenia. (Kardelyan) expressed the hope that the route will soon be open. Otherwise, he said, the republic will be completely without fuel in a couple of days. As you know, the gas pipeline that was closed down in North Ossetia has not been working for a fortnight, and it is two months since any freight has been received from the Azerbaijani side.

Armenia's borders are coming under fire. Last night, four villages in eastern Armenia were attacked from Azerbaijani territory. The attack was stopped and the firing positions destroyed only at the cost of casualties. Four died on the Armenian side, and seven residents and defenders of the villages were wounded. More and more reports are being received on the border about large-scale build-ups of personnel and hardware on Azerbaijani territory. Armen Dulyan, SNARK News Agency, for Radio Rossii news service.

Official Urges 'Maximum Efforts' for Peace

LD0906222892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2006 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan June 9 TASS—Armenian Parliament Chief Babken Ararktsyan spoke out in favour of creating the guarantees of security and normal life of the population in conflict-torn areas, primarily in South Ossetia. In a statement published in the parliamentary newspaper AIASTANI ANRAPETYTYUN (Republic of Armenia) today, he expressed the view that a cease-fire followed by bilateral and multilateral talks should be the necessary pre-requisite for this.

Ararktsyan noted furthermore that the awareness of the need to restore lasting peace and the interests of economic development and concern about the social needs of the population everywhere, including in Transcaucasia, call for applying maximum efforts in the search for ways of achieving a peace settlement of conflicts.

On prospects for the development of relations between Armenia and Georgia, Ararktsyan said the establishment of diplomatic relations and the ratification of the interstate treaty, signed by the two republics' leaders last summer, "should be followed by specific steps by legislative and executives bodies, relevant government structures and agencies."

According to Ararktsyan, the priority task of Armenian-Georgian mixed working groups that are being formed will be to create specific mechanisms for cooperation using the present economic levers and traditional ties.

'Good Relations' With Nakhichevan Sought

OW0906213292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia will seek to establish good relations with Nakhichevan, an autonomy within Azerbaijan, member of the parliamentary commission on foreign relations Semyon Bagdasaryan told IF [INTERFAX] Tuesday [9 June]. [sentence as received]

According to Bagdasaryan, on June 5 a representative of the Armenian Foreign Ministry handed to the deputy chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis Safarov a package of documents, including, in particular, a draft treaty on neighborly relations and long-term cooperation between Armenia and Nakhichevan, a draft agreement on measures to ensure security of the bender and create an atmosphere of mutual trust in the border zone. The draft offers to establish a 5 km security zone on both sides, free from military units and equipment.

One of the articles of the draft treaty on cooperation says that the two sides can ask any neighboring country to be a mediator. In the opinion of Bagdasaryan, Iran could be such a country.

Bagratyan Interviewed on Nakhichevan, Turkey

NC1006095992 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 7 Jun 92 pp 1, 16

["Exclusive" interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan by CUMHURIYET correspondent Merih Ak in Izmir, Turkey; date not given]

[Text] [Ak] How do you assess the armed clashes in Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]?

[Bagratyan] First, we must understand that the Armenians in Karabakh are the local people in that area. They said that they have declared a separate republic in Karabakh. When I say that Armenia is not fighting a war in Karabakh, I mean that the clash in that region is between the people of Karabakh and the Azerbaijani population. In view of this, drawing a parallel between Karabakh and Armenia is wrong. The people in Karabakh do not act in accordance with the instructions they receive from Armenia. We support the idea of finding a peaceful solution to the problem. If we want peace in the region, then we must realize that the problem will have to be settled through talks between Karabakh and Azerbaijan. Naturally, Armenia can influence Karabakh to a certain degree.

Regarding the situation in the NAR, I wish to make it known officially that we have not entered that autonomous republic. The two sides are exchanging fire along the border. As far as we are concerned, they fire first and we retaliate, but they believe that we fire first and they retaliate. Reports that a part of the NAR has been occupied are unfounded. These matters must be studied by technical experts.

We are not trying to avoid sharing responsibility for the exchange of fire. Nevertheless, I wish to note that we can resolve these problems through daily contacts. An effort is being made to present the existing situation as a state of war and aggression. In fact, the NAR Administration has already made a disclosure in that regard. Considering the matter from this angle may create an unexpected heated clash. Officials can hold talks to resolve the problem and establish law and order on the border.

[Ak] Prime Minister Demirel has said that establishing relations with Armenia before bloodshed stops is difficult. Can you explain your opinion on the matter?

[Bagratyan] We agree with him that bloodshed must stop, but two points have to be considered in that regard. First, Armenia is not the side causing bloodshed. Second, waiting for bloodshed to stop to move to establish relations between Turkey and Armenia is the wrong approach. Taking steps toward establishing relations may create an opportunity to end bloodshed.

[Ak] The CSCE has adopted a decision calling for a peaceful settlement to the problem. Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly, has said that Armenia has decided to change its approach because it has been isolated and noted that you have brought a letter from President Ter-Petrosyan to Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

[Bagratyan] The Armenian delegation has arrived in Izmir to take part in a conference. Of course, we are very pleased with our meeting with Prime Minister Demirel. We came away with a favorable impression. Turkey is one of our most influential neighbors. Naturally, the letter called for more active relations between Turkey and Armenia. Regarding the view that Armenia has been isolated, I wish to note that we should not forget that Azerbaijan has tried to resolve the Karabakh problem through armed force. Taking this as a starting point, we can recall the incidents that occurred through 1991. Armenians were forced to evacuate 23 towns in Karabakh in 1991. We can describe the recent activities of the Armenians in Karabakh as the outcome of a state of despair. These people have realized that they will not be able to maintain their security through peaceful initiatives. Very effective international guarantees are required to establish security for the people in Karabakh. The Azeri and Armenian people, that is to say, those who live in Karabakh, have to hold talks in the future.

[Ak] Can you explain the proposals included in the letter you presented to Prime Minister Demirel?

[Bagratyan] The letter contained proposals for three agreements. The first proposal called for an agreement on cooperation in trade, the second called for an agreement on border trade, and the third called for an agreement on transportation. Armenia has taken a step toward establishing economic cooperation with Turkey. We do not wish to conceal that the rapid conclusion of these agreements will be in Armenia's interest. Prime Minister Demirel discussed a number of problems related to Karabakh and Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, he said that the proposals will be studied by Turkish officials. The draft texts have to be drawn up first before the two sides move to sign the final agreements.

Minister Outlines Energy Program, 'Crisis'

OW0906185992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 90—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Armenian government has prepared a special program to lead the country out of the current energy crisis, said the president's expert, state minister Vigen Chitechyan in an interview for Interfax correspondent. The realization of this program envisages three stages. Stage one embracing the current year; stage two, the period up to 1995; stage three, the period up to 2000. Mr Chitechyan has revealed that the first two stages of the government energy program will require approximately $800 mn [million] for their realization. In addition, Armenia would need $640 mn for fuel purchases.

In the words of the minister, the government program is based on the principle of energy conservation and saving, so long as in the ongoing situation this principle alone may enable the republic to overcome its energy crisis. The expert had to admit, however, that in the next two to four ears the situation is not likely to change for the better since the republic will "continue to depend on fuel import". We should envisage fuel price rises up to the world level, he warned.

IF [INTERFAX] note: In the world prices, 1 kWt/hr costs 6-8 cents, which equals 7-9 rubles, while the republic's population pays for power 20 kopecks a kwt/hr.

Commenting on the republic's opportunities for relying on its own resources, Mr Chitechyan referred to the development of a power production network incorporating 381 small power plants, their required output capacity having been gauged. However, the refurbishment of outdated power plants and the construction of new ones presupposes the expenditures which the republic cannot afford on its own. We would have to generate these resources by way of attracting foreign investments, he said. The new energy program, in the words of Chitechyan, provides highly favorable terms for the investors. This year the government is planning the construction of three hydro-power plants, five more being blueprinted.

Sepukh Tashchyan, minister of energetics [as received] and fuel, in an interview to the Interfax correspondent revealed that the government had initiated talks with the Californian officials inviting them to participate in realizing the republic's energy program. US specialists are expected to arrive in Armenia by the end of June. Following their survey of the republic's natural deposits, they will present the results to major companies in the US in order that they could assess their opportunities for cooperating with Armenia in the area of processing the republic's raw materials. The minister said that the "Argosolar", a company in California specializing in solar energy technologies, has already indicated their interest in such cooperation. With the help of this company, Tashchyan said, we are planning to initiate the production of solar power plants in Armenia.

Touching on the problem of nuclear energy, Tashchyan emphasized that "Armenia wants to become a country of highly developed economy, which goal cannot be attained without use of nuclear energy". In the minister's opinion, the country would need one or two high-tech nuclear power plants, safe from any point of view, including seismological. In the assessment of Mr Chitechyan, further operation of the Armenian nuclear power plant in its present state is impossible.

Ter-Petrosyan Ends Visit to Uruguay

LD1006090192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0623 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Chistov]

[Text] Brasilia June 10 TASS—President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia has completed his official two-day visit to Uruguay. He visited the country's supreme court and was received by the mayor of Montevideo on Tuesday [9 June] and met with representatives of the local Armenian community on Tuesday afternoon, Ruben Shugarov, assistant to the president, told ITAR-TASS.

On Monday [8 June] Ter-Petrosyan had been received by President Luis Alberto Lacalle. They discussed the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the development of political, economic and cultural contacts between the two countries and the establishment of diplomatic relations, Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian told ITAR-TASS.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan visited the country's General Assembly where he was received by Assembly President Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez and met with the leaders of the Uruguayan parliament. The Armenian president also had a meeting with U.N. chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali in Montevideo.

The Armenian leader leaves by air for Buenos Aires on Wednesday [10 June] morning to meet with President Carlos Menem of Argentina. Three documents are to be signed during the visit: A general agreement on friendship and cooperation between the two countries, on cooperation between the foreign ministries of Armenia and Argentina and on the development of bilateral, cultural contacts, Hovannisian said.

After visiting Argentina, Ter-Petrosyan will go to Brazil to attend the current earth summit in Rio de Janeiro—the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. When in Rio, the Armenian president is to meet with his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor.

Azerbaijan

Officials Apologize to Iran on Elchibey Remarks

LD0906164292 Tehran IRNA in English
1357 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 9, IRNA—Acting president and deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan have expressed regret over the recent remarks of the presidential candidate Nationalist Elbulfez Elchibey concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Prime Minister Mamedov in a meeting with the acting head of the Iranian Embassy in Baku apologized to the Iranian Government and people for the televised interview in which Elchibey insulted the Islamic sanctities and questioned Iran's policies in the region.

"Elchibey's remarks do not reflect the official stance of the government and people of Azerbaijan, and I would like you to convey our apology to the senior Iranian officials," Ahmadov stressed.

He also conveyed the deep regret of Acting President Kamberov over the issue.

Elchibey Outlines First Steps After Election

PM0906120792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 1

[R. Zaripov report: "Azerbaijan: Election Results Still Being Counted, But President Already Known"]

[Excerpts] Baku—The Azerbaijani presidential election has been held. According to preliminary figures from the People's Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] headquarters, there was a 73-percent turnout. Between 61 and 64 percent voted for PFA Chairman Ebulfez Elchibey, who has proclaimed three basic principles for Azerbaijan's development—democracy, Turkism, and Islam. His closest and main rival—Nizami Suleymanov, who had promised to turn Azerbaijan into a Kuwait in the space of three months—gained between 20 and 30 percent of the vote. Clearly, these figures can be viewed as accurate. To varying degrees the PFA was in control of [kontroliroval] the freedom of electoral commissions, and the euphoria in the republic about Elchibey is merely confirmation of this. [passage omitted]

Answering a question from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, Ebulfez Elchibey assured us that the Nagorno-Karabakh question is soluble. But only with the help of international organizations. UN troops could protect border areas between Armenia and Azerbaijan. After a cease-fire, talks should start.

[Zaripov] What will be your first steps?

[Elchibey] First, to develop international relations with various states. Second, it will be necessary during the first two months to solve the problem of food supplies to the needy population. And then we will have to start economic reform. Azerbaijan does not plan to join the CIS [V SNG Azerbaydzhan vstupat ne sobirayetsya]. Bilateral treaties will be concluded with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and other states.

Elchibey Interviewed on Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1006090292 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 7 Jun 92 pp 1, 16

["Exclusive" interview with Azerbaijan Popular Front leader Ebulfez Elchibey by CUMHURIYET correspondent Hicran Ege Goltz in Baku; date not given]

[Text] [Goltz] In a statement to CUMHURIYET, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have exercised their right to self-determination and declared their independence. What is your opinion of this?

[Elchibey] Ter-Petrosyan's approach to the matter is wrong. There are historical documents on Karabakh. Girovyan, who served in Karabakh for a long time, said on television recently that the situation of the Armenians in Karabakh is better than that of the Armenians in Armenia or the Azerbaijanis in Azerbaijan has been in the past. Their rights are more effectively safeguarded than those of the others. Nevertheless, certain forces provoked the Armenians. The KGB and several other groups were involved. Plans were made to use the Armenians in Karabakh to annex the region to Armenia. The word "miatsun" means "unity" in Armenian. Ter-Petrosyan was among those who made a strenuous effort to achieve this objective. Ter-Petrosyan came to power after the incidents in Karabakh had started; that is, after the Armenian people had focused their attention on the region.

Armenia prepared for war for a long time. First, maps were drawn up. They showed Karabakh as part of Armenia, as well as the area up to the Kura River in Azerbaijan. This is part of the fantasy of "Greater Armenia." This fantasy was later included in schoolbooks. The Armenians wanted to take all of Azerbaijan. In fact, Armenian Deputy Zoru Balayan is on the record as saying: "The Azerbaijani Turks should be transferred to the other side of the Caspian Sea. Their land is in Central Asia."

They made preparations for action in Karabakh in order to ensure success. Establishing footholds behind enemy lines is a common strategy in war. They achieved this in Karabakh. Meanwhile, they evicted 200,000 Azerbaijanis from Armenia and killed 170 of them. Many others died from the cold on the mountains; we do not know how many. We tried to prevent the situation in Agdam. The Armenians killed two Azerbaijanis. This was followed by the incidents in Sumgait. All this was planned in advance. Later, the Armenians created incidents in Karabakh. Under these circumstances, how can we talk about human rights?

The world is currently upholding two principles. The first is territorial integrity and the inviolability of the borders. The second is the right to self-determination. Anything contrary to these principles may create unrest. That is why the world opposes any violation of territorial integrity. Minority populations live in nearly every country in the world. If the minorities move to declare their independence, then these countries will be fragmented. It would be a crime if a state in the United States, the cradle of democracy, demanded territory from another state. In view of this, how can Armenia claim any part of Azerbaijan? How does the world view this?

As for the second principle, Armenia has exercised its right to self-determination and established its own state. Whoever wishes to go and live in Armenia is free to do so. How can the 140,000 Armenians in Azerbaijan exercise their right to self-determination to decide to unite with Armenia? Is this a logical approach?

[Goltz] We must ask you another question. Terrorist groups are being brought from around the world to the region and sent to the towns in Nagorno-Karabakh. How can this be explained? And can you comment on the proposal that a peace force should be established and deployed in Karabakh to maintain the security of the region's people and that the status of Karabakh should be debated on a CSCE platform?

[Elchibey] Nagorno-Karabakh was an autonomous province [vilayet]. That is a fact. The Armenians created problems to have Karabakh placed under their jurisdiction. Since they have failed.... Let me start from the beginning. The Armenians have argued that Karabakh is no longer an autonomous province, but when it was they wished to annex Karabakh as a whole. We had to remove its autonomy With the world opposed to Karabakh's union with Armenia, the Armenians in Karabakh are now claiming that they "want autonomy and nothing else." They had autonomy. They should have participated in the elections to elect their officials.

[Goltz] Does Azerbaijan have any conditions for deploying a peace force in the region?

[Elchibey] If the conditions are met, we will agree to the deployment of a peace force. First, the two sides must agree to a cease-fire on the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Then the Karabakh dispute can be placed on the agenda. It can be addressed and resolved within international organizations. Let us see how it will be.

[Goltz] What do you think about the view that four countries must approve a move by the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] to unite with Turkey?

[Elchibey] That will not happen. It cannot. Azerbaijan will not agree to give any part of its territory away—not one inch. It will move to retrieve the lands it has lost. Armenia would welcome unity between Turkey and the NAR. It would like Turkey to have the NAR because it would then move to claim Karabakh. The Armenians want to fragment Azerbaijan like this, but it will not happen. We may all die, but this will not happen. The problem is being considered in so many ways.... Russia has its own approach. If Turkey adopts a different approach, we will make a written appeal (laughing) to unite with the PRC.

[Goltz] What do you think about relations between Turkey and Armenia improving? Would Azerbaijan find this useful?

[Elchibey] This would be a favorable development. It would confirm Turkey's world influence. Armenia knows the extensive work Turkey carries out in the world. Naturally, Armenia will want access to the Black Sea to be able to trade. Of course, Turkey's moderate policy will contribute toward Azerbaijan's interests.

Report Summarizes Problems Facing Elchibey

PM0906134592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Georgiy Ivanov-Smolenskiy and Vasif Samedov: "Results of Election of Azerbaijani President Not Yet Announced, But Ebulfez Elchibey Has Probably Won"]

[Excerpts] The election of the republic's president was held in Azerbaijan last Sunday in quite a calm atmosphere. Some 73 percent of the electorate participated in the election. According to observers' estimates, the largest number of votes went to Ebulfez Elchibey (Aliyev), chairman of the People's Front of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Whereas the victory over the procommunist regime may be considered virtually a foregone conclusion (although a number of observers believe that the nomenklatura has not had its final say), a quick solution to the remaining problems does not seem so obvious. Above all, the way out of the Karabakh impasse. Azerbaijan has now lost approximately one-fourth of its territory, and the number of refugees has increased in recent months from 200,000 to over 300,000. Naturally, the people's expectations in the republic are primarily linked with restoration of Nagorno-Karabakh's status quo.

The severe economic crisis which is the rule in all the "post-Union" republics is being exacerbated by the fact that more than one-third of agricultural produce was cultivated and produced on territories which have been lost or subjected to combat operations. This in turn makes the real independence of the state of Azerbaijan dependent on countries which have their own interests in this region. It is significant that an opposition to the People's Front—a more radical opposition—emerged right after the May events.

However, Ebulfez Elchibey has proved himself not only a politician capable of making compromises and gathering a reliable team around himself. His life includes a characteristic fact: After working in the past for two years as a translator in Egypt, he did not bring a single pound back from there—he gave them to the poor people there. Clearly, Elchibey takes and will take the needs of his own people still closer to heart. Maybe there is hope in this.

Suleymanov Says Election Results 'Invalid'

LD0906215592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Video report from Baku by correspondent V. Vinogradov—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] An international conference on the problems of running the country in extraordinary circumstances opened today in Baku.

[Vinogradov] There have not yet been any official statements from the Central Electoral Commission, but, in the conditions of a total information vacuum, the Popular Front has announced the victory of Ebulfez Elchibey. The situation, however, remains extremely uncertain, although people are keenly discussing the news received from various sources.

[Nizami Suleymanov] Immediately after the elections, first thing next morning, I handed a statement to AZERINFORM and said that I would be president after that regardless, or Elchibey. I hold the results of the elections to be invalid.

[Vinogradov] Suleymanov's desk is covered with ballot slips in his favor that were picked up at polling stations. According to statements made by the secretaries of electoral commissions, there have been instances in which 15 to 30 voting slips were found folded together in the ballot boxes. Nizami undoubtedly regards himself as Elchibey's main opponent, and a committee has already been formed to defend him, which will urge the people to attend rallies and engage in civil disobedience.

Mission Denies Nagorno-Karabakh Attack Report

OW1006115292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The permanent mission of Azerbaijan has denied rumours about a large-scale offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh contemplated by Azerbaijan. On Wedesday [10 June], it ciruclated a statement saying that such reports are circulated every time the Armenian national army is getting ready for an offensive in this part of Azerbaijan. Baku believes that Agdam will become the Armenian army's next target.

Attacks Continue on Border Settlements

LD1006122592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Last night artillery attacks on the Azerbaijan border settlements from Armenia continued. According to the Turan agency, units of the Armenian army attacked positions belonging to the Azerbaijani national self-defense forces near the village of Farakhli, Kazakh Rayon, this morning. In turn the press center of the Supreme Soviet of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic stated that over the past 24 hours no less than four people had been killed in Karabakh as a result of shelling of Armenian forces. The press center's statement was reported by the SNARK agency today.

Armenia 'Again' Attacks Nakhichevan 9 Jun

TA1006052092 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Armenia again attacked the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic yesterday. Three Azerbaijani Turks were killed in the attack. Following this recent attack, clashes have again resumed in the Sadarak region. It is reported that the Armenians, who are controlling the Mil hill in Nakhichevan, used tanks and artillery in their attack. The Nakhichevan office of the Popular Front issued a statement saying the fighting lasted all day yesterday and subsided toward evening.

Nakhichevan's Aliyev on Armenian, Turkish Ties

NC1006094192 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 7 Jun 92 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive" interview with Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly, by CUMHURIYET correspondent Turey Kose in Izmir, Turkey; date not given]

[Text] [Kose] Have you spoken to Prime Minister Demirel about President Ter-Petrosyan's letter?

[Aliyev] Demirel invited me today (yesterday) and we visited Dalaman and Nazilli. He said: "I want to show you several places and you will also have an opportunity to see how democracy is applied in Turkey." The visit was very useful. Everywhere, Demirel was met with affection and people sacrificed calves for him. Magnificent ceremonies were held to welcome him. Demirel is a great politician. Everything was very pleasant, people addressing him as "father, the father of fathers." He told me during the visit that the "Armenians brought him a letter from Ter-Petrosyan." I said: "Receive them. Be resolute and serious in what you tell them because Armenia has occupied Karabakh and is currently attacking the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]. An exchange of fire two days ago wounded five of our fighters."

I also asked him to consider the subject seriously and he informed me he would.

[Kose] In a statement to CUMHURIYET, President Ter-Petrosyan said Armenia is prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey. How do you assess this moderate approach?

[Aliyev] I read Ter-Petrosyan's statement in CUMHURIYET and I believe he wants to improve Armenia's relations with Turkey. He should first improve Armenia's relations with Azerbaijan and not covet any part of the NAR. Ter-Petrosyan has said Armenia has no land claim against the NAR. If that is so, why do the Armenians fire on the NAR? The border region is mountainous. We have 16,000 people living on arid land. There is a difference between what Ter- Petrosyan says and what he does. I do not find him sincere. The Armenians must not touch our border.

[Kose] The Armenians have said Armenia has not declared war. They also claimed the clashes were caused by uncontrollable bands....

[Aliyev] No, no, that cannot be. I know Ter-Petrosyan very well. He knows what goes on. He can end the war with a single word if he wants. Let me reiterate that he is not sincere. No one should believe him. The world knows the truth. I have been asked if I would agree to meet the Armenian delegation in Izmir. I would, but nothing would change because they have no authority. Ter- Petrosyan has that. He is the main force. He can establish peace if he wants. I used to know about everything when I served in the former CPSU Politburo. I knew the situation and who held power. I am also well informed now.

[Kose] What prompted Armenia to change its approach?

[Aliyev] The last Armenian attack on the NAR was on 18 May, when Turkey made the right move, reacting very quickly. Prime Minister Demirel and several ministers issued statements. President Ozal made a statement in the American hospital where he received medical treatment. The world realized Turkey would intervene if Armenia touched the NAR. Everyone reacted against the Armenian attack and Armenia was condemned. Everyone realized Turkey was determined. Turkey's policy is very important. If Armenia wants us to believe it is sincere, it must first agree to a cease-fire and withdraw its armed units from the NAR's border. Then we can believe them.

[Kose] Can the letter to Prime Minister Demirel be regarded as hope for settling existing problems?

[Aliyev] Let us first see what the letter contains. I do not wish to comment right now.

[Kose] In his statement to CUMHURIYET, Ter-Petrosyan claimed he is doing everything to prevent the Karabakh problem leading to a clash between the Muslims and Christians....

[Aliyev] I would support what he says if he is sincere. I do not want war anywhere. There should be no war in Karabakh, but the Armenians have occupied all of it.

[Kose] Ter-Petrosyan has said the Armenian population's security must be established before the Karabakh problem can be settled. He also noted that the legal problems can be solved later.

[Aliyev] I do not wish to say anything about that. Presidential elections will be held in Azerbaijan on 7 June. A new president will be elected. I do not wish to comment on the Karabakh problem.

[Kose] How do you assess Turkey's approach to your problems?

[Aliyev] Turkey is helping us. We have been besieged. We have received food supplies and other aid from Turkey. We have no other request. Turkey supports us. It supports the NAR.

News Agency Begins Work in Nakhichevan

LD0906122892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1213 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Baku, 8 Jun (AZERINFORM-TASS)—The "REAL" independent news agency began work today in the Nakhichevan autonomous republic of Azerbaijan. Its staff are drawn from correspondents for Nakhichevan newspapers and television. The agency's director, Mirza Askerov, said that it will initially issue stories via AZERINFORM, with which a contract has been signed, and in the near future will set up its own communication lines and acquire faxes and computers.

Georgia

'Unauthorized Operations' Continue in Tskhinvali

Shevardnadze Calls For Cease-Fire

LD0906141392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1310 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By SAKINFORM correspondent Eduard Ediberidze—TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi, 9 Jun—Unauthorized operations that caused human casualties, carried out in the past few days in the Tskhinvali region by both the Ossetian and the Georgian sides, were the subject of keen debate at yesterday's extraordinary sitting of the Georgian State Council and the Republican Headquarters for Reinforcing Law and Order and Observance of the Law, which has been set up under it. There was sharp criticism of the leaders of military units who, through their headstrong actions, are compromising the policy of the State Council and the Government of Georgia.

Speaking at the sitting, Eduard Shevardnadze categorically demanded of the appropriate officials that decisions adopted earlier be implemented, that at all costs a real cease-fire be achieved, and a joint observers' group be set up.

The Presidium and State Council Headquarters decided that the republic's Vice Premier Sandro Kavsadze will go to Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) to assess topical problems concerning settlement of the conflict.

Russian Troops on 'Combat Readiness'

OW0906134292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In view of the sharp aggravation of the situation in the Tskhinvali region, the engineers and helicopter regiments, and paratroopers located in the Tskhinvali region, have been put into a state of combat readiness, Deputy-Commander of the Trancaucasian Military District Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev told IF [INTERFAX]. He said that both the Georgian and the Ossetian sides had been warned that if the Russian servicemen are attacked, tough return measures will be taken against them. Luckily, neither side has made such steps, said the general.

The evacuation of the servicemen's families continues. To date, about 80 per cent of the families have left Tskhinvali.

Asked if part of the Trancaucasian military district's armaments have been passed to the Georgian Defence Ministry, Beppayev said that was out of the question unless Georgia and Russia concluded an intergovernmental agreement.

Russian Army Involvement Viewed

LD0906163692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1455 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Telephone report from Tskhinvali by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dvali]

[Text] Late in the night of 8 June there was a session of the Presidium of the State Council and the headquarters recently set up within the State Council. Among other issues, the meeting examined the situation in the Tskhinvali region. Particular attention was focused on the unsanctioned combat operations which have been carried out by both sides over the last few days. Members of the Presidium and the headquarters unanimously considered such uncoordinated and unauthorized actions as impermissible. The commanders of the troop units operating in the Tskhinvali region were severely warned. It was noted that each such step and each unsanctioned action prevents the State Council and the Government of Georgia from carrying out its peace policy and provides the destructive forces with the opportunity of stepping up their actions.

State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze categorically demanded that the officials concerned fulfill the decisions adopted earlier, no matter how difficult this might be, to achieve a real cease-fire, to reestablish the mixed group of observers, which has ceased its activities, and to organize a joint press center for the reception and distribution of objective information. It was stated that it is urgently necessary to begin preparations for talks between the interested sides. In line with a decision of the Presidium and the State Council Headquarters, Vice

Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze is setting off for Vladikavkaz in order to examine these and other questions with the Ossetian side.

Meanwhile, a real danger has arisen that troops of the Russian Army stationed in this region will be mixed up in the conflict. Thirty-five families of servicemen of the helicopter and combat engineer regiment, who remained in the conflict zone, are now located in a bunker of the 37th Combat Engineer Regiment which is billeted in Tskhinvali. The personnel and officers of this regiment have found themselves between two fires; there is no other way of describing it. Many shells from both the Ossetian and Georgian sides have exploded on the regiment's location.

A correspondent of the IPRINDA agency has learned from reliable sources that one of the regimental commanders turned to his command in desperation with a request to open fire on any one of the sides, no matter which, just to protect his subordinates. There are many wounded in the regiment.

This morning, in the region of the village of (Gudzhabaluy), a major and three men of an intelligence subunit of the Transcaucasian Military District were wounded. They were accompanying Georgian military servicemen to the talks with the Ossetian side, but they fell into an ambush and were fired on by Ossetian combatants with machine guns. All the wounded were given assistance at the municipal hospital in the town of Gori.

That is the situation today in Tskhinvali region. It is difficult to predict how events will develop further here.

Ossetians Evacuate Population

AU1006072792 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0200 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense has informed us that there has been no change in the positions of the National Guard in the Tskhinvali region. The Ossetian side is evacuating the population from Tskhinvali. There is currently no shooting in the Tskhinvali region.

Information has been received according to which a small contingent of so-called CIS troops has arrived in Java that, as yet, has not interfered in the conflict. As the Republic of Georgia defense minister and commander of the National Guard explained, it seems, at first glance, that this military unit has arrived on Georgian territory to protect and evacuate the members of the families of the Russian troops. However, there is the suspicion that they have brought heavy military equipment for the Ossetian militants, including Grad missile launchers. We repeat that this information has not been confirmed.

It has been agreed that today in Qazbeki [rayon center in Georgian Caucasus region, close to border with North Ossetia] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia State Council, will meet with Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet. Their talks will center implementing a peaceful policy in the Tskhinvali region and the supply of gas to Georgia and Armenia.

Shevardnadze Leaves for Talks

OW1006112492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [10 June], a Georgian delegation consisting of Eduard Shevardnadze, Aleksndr Kavsadze, Tengiz Kitovani and Dzhaba Ioseliani left for the village of Kazbegi on the border between North Osetia and Georgia to discuss ways of settling the situation in the region with representatives of the North Ossetian parliament.

Shortly before the departure, Georgia's Vice-Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze told IF [INTERFAX] that the talks will concentrate on real ways of ensuring ceasefire in the Tskhinvali region and creating conditions for the return of Georgian and Ossetian refugees. The administrative set-up will not be discussed, although the South-Ossetian side insists on its consideration, he said.

Speaking about the forthcoming talks, Eduard Shevardnadze told the State Council that they will be difficult, because the Georgian armed forces' uncontrolled operations in the Tskhinvali region have put the State Council in a difficult position. He said that provocations were quite possible during the talks in Kazbegi.

A representative of the Georgian Defence Ministry's press center told IF [INTERFAX] that Tengiz Kitovani, who will take part in the talks, had issued no orders to carry out combat operations in the Tskhinvali region.

Cease-Fire Talks Begin in Kazbegi

LD1006084692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 June 92

[Text] At this moment, a meeting is beginning in the Georgian town of Kazbegi between Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia, and Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council. The main topic of discussion is an immediate cease-fire in the Tskhinvali area and a settlement of the Ossetian-Georgian conflict on the territory of South Ossetia. It is expected that a joint statement will be signed by the leaders of the two republics.

Reports on Fall of Tskhinvali Denied

OW1006103292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy-Commander of the Transcaucasian Military District Lieutenant-General Sufiyan Beppayev told IF [INTERFAX] on Wednesday morning [10 June] that information about the assault of Tskhinvali by Georgian armed formations and about the fall of the city was not true. Representatives of the North Ossetian parliament did not confirm it, either.

Meanwhile, according to reports which have arrived in Vladikavkaz from Tskhinvali, last night was very tense in that region. Massive shelling of the city continued. According to preliminary figures, 8 people were killed and more than 40 wounded.

South-Ossetian sources indicate that national-guard units, heavy artrillery and Grad launchers are being moved toward Tskhinvali.

Ossetians Demand Russian Help

LD1006105692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0947 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow June 10 TASS—About 150 representatives of the Ossetian community in Moscow who gathered today by the Russian parliament building, demanded that Russia "take a more active and resolute position in the conflict in South Ossetia."

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, chairman of the Moscow Ossetian Society, Kim Tsagolov, reproached the Russian authorities that they are not making serious steps to stop combat actions in South Ossetia. At today's morning session of the Soviet of the Nationalities of the Russian parliament, deputies took a decision to submit an issue on the situation in North and South Ossetia for the consideration of the Supreme Soviet session to be held on Thursday, June 11.

Presidium Issues 'Severe Warning' to Commanders

AU0906145292 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] A session of the Republic of Georgia State Council and its newly created headquarters was held late last night. In addition to other questions, it discussed the current situation in the Tskhinvali region. Naturally, particular attention was paid at the session to the recent unsanctioned operations conducted by both sides. Members of the Presidium and the headquarters unanimously assessed as intolerable the uncoordinated actions and arbitrary facts of recent days and issued a severe warning to the commanders of the military units operating in the Tskhinvali region. Each rash step and each uncoordinated action hinders the Republic of Georgia State Council and the implementation of a peaceful policy by the Government and enables destructive forces to compromise this policy. Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the State Council, categorically demanded that the corresponding officials fulfill the decisions that had been previously adopted. No matter how difficult it may be, they had to reach a genuine cease-fire (?and create) a combined working [word indistinct] group that is no longer functioning. A joint press center is to operate in order to acquire and disseminate objective information and [word indistinct] is to begin immediately [word indistinct] negotiations between the interested sides. The Georgian Procurator's Office is to ensure the work of a joint investigative group concerning the crime committed on 20 May [the murder of 36 Ossetians by an armed group near the village of Kekhvi in Tskhinvali rayon] and is to periodically report to the State Council headquarters on the progress of the investigation.

The Ministry of Communications is to adopt measures in order to restore communications in the Tskhinvali region. Sandro Kavsadze, (?member) of the Republic of Georgia Presidium and headquarters, republican deputy prime minister, is to travel to Vladikavkaz to discuss [word indistinct] questions with the interested sides.

More on Call for Council Members' Resignation

OW0906191092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 90—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At Georgia's National Democratic Party congress which completed its work in Tbilisi Sunday [7 June], the Party's chairman Georgiy Chanturia demanded that deputy chairman of State Council Jaba Ioseliani and the republic's first deputy premier, minister of defense Tenghiz Kitovani resign their offices as members of the Presidium of the republic's State Council.

In his interview to an Interfax correspondent Georgiy Chanturia said: "We have long been insisting that the military should give way to the politicians. Everyone appears to be aware of the complexity of the situation in the republic, yet no one dares to name those who bear responsibility for it. We believe that Mr Ioseliani and Mr Kitovani have been very instrumental in assisting the democratic forces to overthrow the authoritarian regime of ex-President Gamsakhurdia".

Georgiy Chanturia underlines that Jaba Ioseliani and he had been associated for many years, including the time they spent together in prison, noting that "at present, neither Ioseliani nor Kitovani are capable of controlling their military formations which are robbing Georgia and its people. We cannot put all the blame on Gamsakhurdia's rule alone," he said. "Had he have enough combat power, he wouldn't have left Georgia," he maintained.

The National Democratic Party leader said his party would wage struggle against all those whose activities "disagree with the interests [of] free democratic Georgia". Mr Chanturia resolutely supported the proposal to integrate the National Guard and the "Mkhedrioni" detachments into a unified military command which would uphold the interests of Georgia as a whole, rather than of an individual clan". [quotation marks as received]

IF [INTERFAX] note: In an interview for Georgian television Monday, Jaba Ioseliani denied the allegations about a rift between Eduard Shevardnadze and the other members of the Presidium of Georgia's State Council. In the meantime, at the Saturday session of the State Council, Mr Ioseliani, reportedly, opposed the proposal to put Eduard Shevardnadze in charge of the crime fighting agency established by the State Council.

Commission Sets Number of Refugees at 23,182

AU1006081392 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 30 May 92 p 2

[Statement adopted by the Special Commission for Problems in the Tskhinvali Region on 29 May; place not given: "These Are The Facts"]

[Text] **In connection with the fact that inaccurate information is systematically being published about those persons of Ossetian nationality who have left the territory of the Republic of Georgia and are now on the territory of North Ossetia, the Special Government Commission for Problems in the Tskhinvali Region considers it necessary to state the following officially:**

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Labor, Social Protection, and Demography has registered those persons of Georgian and Ossetian nationality who have left the conflict zone in the Tskhinvali region and also certain other populated localities in the Republic of Georgia. The ministry believes that the margin of error of the figures supplied by it lies between 10 and 20 percent. According to these figures, the number of persons who have left the territory of Georgia and are now in North Ossetia is 23,182, including approximately 3,000 who have exchanged their houses and apartments in Tbilisi and other localities in the Republic of Georgia with Georgians in Vladikavkaz, approximately 10,050 people who have sold their own homes at market prices, approximately 3,200 people who have abandoned their homes, and approximately 6,990 who have left the territory of the former South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast (there is no information regarding the fate of their homes); taking into account the margin of error, this figure amounts in total to between 20,000 and 28,000 people. Some of those people of Ossetian nationality who left the Tskhinvali region are located in other parts of Georgia. The number of Georgians who have abandoned their houses and apartments in Tskhinvali and neighboring villages amounts to approximately 10,000 people.

[Signed] Nodar Natadze, chairman of the commission

Henri Kuprashvili, responsible secretary of the commission

This statement was adopted at a session of the commission on 29 May 1992.

Emergency Powers for State Council Presidium

PM0906141792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jun 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "It Is Expected That State Council Presidium and Its Chairman Will Acquire Emergency Powers Saturday"]

[Text] Tbilisi—A 3 June enlarged session of Georgia's State Council discussed the question of the work of law-enforcement organs, as well as the law and order situation in the country.

As is clear from the reports delivered by the minister of internal affairs, the general prosecutor, and the head of the Intelligence Information Service, crime has assumed menacing proportions in the republic and is threatening to engulf the country in an unprecedented wave of violence and anarchy. The number of crimes has almost doubled in comparison with 1990. As a result of terrorist acts over the last few months almost 30 bridges have been blown up, and road and railroad tunnels and electric towers have been damaged. Many instances of lynch law and mob rule—some of them assuming particularly brutal forms—occurred last month.

In the words of Internal Affairs Minister Roman Gventsadze, the militia has so far been unable to cope with the large, well-armed gangs of criminals and terrorists. To this must also be added the fact that crimes are being committed by representatives of official armed formations.

All this testifies to the weakness of the present Georgian authorities. Judge for yourself: Today many regions of the country are in effect beyond the control of the government and the law enforcement organs. This applies to some regions of western Georgia, particularly the town of Zugdidi and the adjoining territories, where—according to Intelligence Information Service head Irakliy Batiashvili—there is no authority at all, to Abkhazia, and to some villages of the Tskhinval region.

Under these conditions many people believe that it is necessary to give emergency powers to the State Council Presidium and its chairman and to create a special supragovernmental organ which will assume responsibility for all law-enforcement organs and also official armed formations and will be able to establish strict control over them.

This question was discussed 2 June at a closed session of the State Council. However, the draft of the proposed resolution provoked the displeasure of the representatives of political parties, who assessed both the resolution itself and the manner in which it was proposed as disregard for the State Council and the imposition on its members of decisions which are convenient for the presidium and its chairman.

"We are being faced with the fact that they want to impose their will, and we have no intention of playing such games," I was told by the leader of one political party, whose name I am deliberately not citing insofar as the session was a closed one. "If Shevardnadze wants emergency powers, let him come out into the open and explain to the State Council why he needs them and in general what is going on inside the presidium. At the rumor level, everyone is talking about serious contradictions there, but nobody knows anything specific, while on this score the presidium members and the chairman prefer to explain themselves by resorting to euphemisms and are confusing the situation still further. No one is explaining to us why one of the presidium members has been absent from State Council sessions for over a month now, which is all the more surprising inasmuch as this presidium member is the one who is responsible for real military power."

The apprehensions of the political parties' representatives are understandable because in view of the election campaign which is now getting under way, the presence of emergency powers in someone's hands can really influence both the course and the result of the elections themselves. But is does seem to me that these fears are somewhat exaggerated: There are still four months until the elections, and if urgent measures to stabilize the situation are not taken, the elections may not even take place, which would be a catastrophe.

In any event, on the following day the draft resolution on emergency powers was approved by the enlarged session of the State Council. In accordance with this draft the State Council instructs the presidium to utilize all levers to ensure the country's state security. To this end a republic staff of officials is being set up which comprises the members of the State Council Presidium, the ministers of internal affairs, justice, and defense, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the head of the Intelligence Information Service.

The State Council Presidium and chairman are given the right to suspend the action of state administration legislative acts which do not promote stabilization and also to remove officials whose actions jeopardize the stabilization of the situation.

Defense Minister on Russian Troops' Status

PM0906132592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani by Major P. Karapetyan; place and date not given: "Tengiz Kitovani: The Russian Army in Georgia Will Not Be Constricted"]

[Text] [Karapetyan] Mr. Kitovani, in April the State Council adopted a decision on establishing unified regular Georgian Armed Forces which are to include all armed formations, groupings, and detachments operating on the republic's territory. What has already been done?

[Kitovani] Work on creating the infrastructure of the defense department has been completed. The draft into the Georgian Army has begun. By establishing an army, we are consolidating our sovereignty, ensuring state security, and defending the rights, freedoms, and interests of all the citizens of the republic. The formulation of a draft blueprint for military organizational development in Georgia is being finalized.

The essence of the blueprint lies in a policy of active neutrality: We should not get involved in military campaigns, join military alliances, or defend other people's interests, but we should conduct state policy in the defense sphere without damaging mutual relations with other countries. Taking this as a basis, we are reckoning on a limited contingent army which in the initial stage of its formation will number some 20,000 men. You cannot set up an army in one day. I am convinced of this from my own experience: It is always easier to pull something down than it is to build it up. You need plenty of funds. You have to resolve a lot of extremely diverse problems. For example, you need about 700 million rubles a year to maintain a single brigade. The military budget will undoubtedly be a heavy burden on our economy, but establishing a Georgian Army is an objective process dictated by the natural course of events.

[Karapetyan] It is well known that some guardsmen welcomed the State Council's decision to incorporate the National Guard into the unified armed forces with no particular enthusiasm, let us say...

[Kitovani] The Defense Ministry leadership has met with the National Guard command and discussed questions to do with implementing the State Council's resolution on establishing unified armed forces. We listened carefully to the requests and wishes of the guardsmen, and, of course, we shall bear them in mind. Certain functions are envisaged for the guardsmen, just as for members of the "Mkhedrioni" military-patriotic organization. The experience of people who have shown courage and bravery in the struggle with a dictatorial regime will prove very useful to the Georgian Army.

[Karapetyan] Georgia has an outlet to the Black Sea; naval bases are located on its territory at Poti and Ochamchira. The next question has to do with this. Georgia has stated that it has a right to part of the Black Sea Fleet. So what do your interests consist of?

[Kitovani] Yes, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet should be resolved taking Georgian interests into account as well. All the Union republics had a hand in creating the powerful Armed Forces of the USSR. However, these forces should not now be partitioned according to a principle whereby the first person to get to the pie grabs the choicest tidbit, but by taking into account who has invested in it and how much they have invested.

[Karapetyan] How are your mutual relations with the command of the Transcaucasus Military District shaping up? I am asking this question with an ulterior motive. Ex-President Gamsakhurdia did a lot to set public opinion against the military...

[Kitovani] I have good relations with the command of the Transcaucasus Military District. I often visit the district headquarters and converse a great deal with the forces' commander and his deputies. These are purely human contacts, nothing more. As regards relations with military personnel in the republic, however, I would like to state the following: On the very first day of our coming to power we relieved the troops of their occupier status and repealed all Zviad Gamsakhurdia's discriminatory acts. It was officially declared that the new authorities are taking servicemen and members of their families under their protection. And believe you me, this has been backed up with action. The wave of violence directed against personnel of the Transcaucasus Military District in Georgia has declined sharply. We are resolutely stopping any attempted outrages, and we are sorting out hooligans according to the law. Servicemen from the Russian Army will henceforth not be constricted in any way in Georgia.

[Karapetyan] Zviad Gamsakhurdia earlier demanded the immediate withdrawal of Transcaucasus Military District troops from Georgian territory and the transfer to the republic of all the military district's property. And right now there are political forces in Georgia demanding the same thing. Yes, the new authorities relieved the district's troops of their occupier status. But how does their future look to you?

[Kitovani] Issues connected with the presence of Russian troops on Georgian territory will be resolved within the framework of a future intergovernmental agreement between Russia and Georgia. We are preparing our thoughts on the military issue. It is most likely that Russia too is doing work in this field. After all, maintaining groupings of troops in Georgia is a costly business for Russia. Everything will be stipulated within the framework of an intergovernmental treaty: The time frames for the presence of Russian troops in Georgia, the procedure for gradually transferring the district's installations from one balance sheet to another, and also the employment of Russian servicemen as advisers. We will take on mutual commitments and I hope we will be able to meet them.

[Karapetyan] One last question. The draft into the National Army is currently in full swing in Georgia. As far as I can judge, there are problems with this. I have in mind the statement by Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet, to the effect that no Abkhaz will serve outside Abkhazia. Owing to the situation that has developed in South Ossetia, the draft of young people is not taking place here either at the present time. What do you have to say about this?

[Kitovani] I think that everything will gradually be sorted out. Both Abkhazia and South Ossetia are part of Georgia and should live according to its laws. This will be understood as time goes by. [Kitovani ends]

Essential Concluding Remarks

Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, spoke in favor of finding a political resolution to the issue of the status of the presence of Russian troops on Georgian territory in a speech 29 May in the Russian parliament. In order to stabilize the situation, he stressed, the issue of transferring some of the Russian troops' arms and combat hardware to Georgia should be resolved. But, the minister stated, a guarantee is needed that this hardware will not be used in interethnic conflicts. The decision should be made by the Russian Federation president and should be ratified by the Supreme Soviet. Grachev noted that with the coming to power of a new government in Georgia, attitudes to the Russian Army had improved noticeably.

A report by SAKINFORM-TASS on the statement made by Georgian Prime Minister T. Sigua at the 28 May State Council session about the alleged signing by the Russian Federation defense minister of documents transferring a significant number of arms to Georgia was in turn refuted by the prime minister's aide I. Kobakhidze.

Talks With Russia on Black Sea Fleet Continue

OW0906213792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At talks between the delegations of the Georgian Defense Ministry and the leader of the Black Sea Fleet in Poti Monday [8 June] on the transfer of ships to Georgia, an agreement was made to coordinate the actions of the sailors of the fleet and subdivisions of the Georgian Defense Ministry. A special communication service was created for this purpose, the head of the Georgian delegations Deputy Defense Minister Tomaz Tskhakaya told "IF" [INTERFAX]. The delegation of the fleet was headed by the Director of the staff of the Black Sea Fleet Vice Admiral Georgia Gurilov.

Tskhakaya stressed that in the future regular meetings will be held.

Military Chiefs Explain Adzharian Exercises

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 9 June carries an unscheduled 12-minute program on military exercises held near Batumi, capital of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic in Georgia, by the 145th Motorized Rifle Division. Opening video shows military activity and carries the caption "Transcaucasus Military District." The date of the recording is not indicated.

Correspondent Vladimir Mezentsev interviews S.F.Kuzhilin, chief of the Batumi garrison, on the purpose of the exercises. Kuzhilin says that it is necessary to ensure that training is up to standard. Accompanying video shows tanks and helicopters on the move. As missiles are launched, Kuzhilin says that what viewers are seeing is a salvo from a "Grad" rocket launcher.

Next, Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, is shown watching the exercises alongside Aslan Abashidze, Chairman of the Adzharian Supreme Soviet. Mezentsev interviews each of them, beginning with Patrikeyev.

After an exchange of generalities on how the exercises might help improve combat readiness, Mezentsev asks: "What is the future of the Transcaucasian Military District?"

Patrikeyev replies: "The troops will stay here for a certain period of time, but this depends on accords with the leaders of the Transcaucasian states, let us say. Evidently, they will stay here for a certain amount of time, maybe two or three years or perhaps longer, depending on the situation."

Mezentsev then asks: "How are relations developing now between the leadership of the armed forces and the new Government of Georgia?"

Patrikeyev answers: "Let me say, even with regard to the question which you asked me about the time which the troops will spend here, or rather, about the presence of the troops on the territory of Georgia, it meets with the understanding of the republic's leadership. The presence of the troops in the Transcaucasus is clearly a stabilizing factor."

Mezentsev says: "Don't you feel like an occupying force in Batumi?"

Patrikeyev replies: "Of course not. I think we are definitely building normal, civilized relations, as one should."

Mezentsev then asks Abashidze for "a few words about the presence of the Russian Army in your republic".

Abashidze says: "There are many phrases and many expressions now, including the word 'presence.' We have lived together and are still living together. Nothing has changed for me in this respect. I do not share the view which calls the troops an occupying force. After all, there are very many nationalities from all the republics serving here, including Georgians. If we remove them, what will replace them? There will be an enormous confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. I am not confident that it will not spill over into Georgia. I can confirm, with reference to very many factors, that we are on the verge of this, on the verge of a third world war, but the very fact of the presence of these troops here rules all that out."

As the exercises are shown continuing, Mezentsev reads excerpts from President Boris Yeltsin's decrees placing the forces of the Transcaucasian Military District and the Caspian Flotilla under Russian jurisdiction and setting up commissions to negotiate with Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia on the status of the respective forces and the conditions of their presence in those republics.

Next, Patrikeyev and some other men are seen walking down a wooded path overlooking the sea. Mezentsev catches up with Patrikeyev on a bench in a clearing, where he asks him to explain his status and mission.

Patrikeyev says: "I am the authorized representative of the Russian Federation for issues of the deployment of the forces of the Transcaucasian District and the Caspian Flotilla in the Republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. As for my mission, first, I have specific obligations. I have subordinates, the forces... "

Mezentsev interrupts to say: "Of course you don't feel like the subjugator of the Caucasus."

Patrikeyev continued: "Of course I don't feel like a subjugator. Besides, my mission in Batumi is completely different. I believe that now, in these conditions, our Russian troops must defend Russia's interests here, meaning the defense of our southern frontiers. Naturally, in these conditions we also have now the task of defending the territory of these states, together with the emerging national armies, in collaboration with them."

Mezentsev asks: "What awaits the Russian Army in the Transcaucasus?"

Patrikeyev replies: "If we manage to conclude treaties with the leaders of these states, to define the status of our troops and their presence here and to build normal, civilized relations with the leadership here and the population of these republics on the basis of that status, I think everything must normalize and everything will be just right, as they say. But if events start to develop according to the scenario which is occuring now in Azerbaijan, where the situation is unstable and some people are advocating the urgent withdrawal of the troops from there, then of course, joyless times await the Russian Army, as you rightly said, especially its officers and warrant officers. Let us think: Who is waiting for our officers back in Russia now? The troops of the Western Group of Forces are withdrawing, the Northwest Group of Forces is pulling out from the Baltics, and the Northern Group from Poland - but when? There is no housing, there is nothing at all, there is no money. What can our Russian officers expect in these conditions? So, this situation does not depend on us. We in the forces are the hostages of these circumstances. You see, the army is a state institution, an executive body, so to speak, if I may put it that way. Decisions are made by politicians, and the army has to carry them out; the fact that we are in this position is evidently, so to speak, a result of a policy which was not completely thought through and the activity of certain state figures, so to speak. The troops of the district are deployed on the territory of three republics, as you know, and these republics still have autonomous formations of their own—Georgia has Adzharia, where we are now, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia, and there are also the Republic of Nakhichevan, Karabakh, and so on. Therefore, a military leader also has to pursue a very well-considered policy here with regard to the population. There has to be a balance - an even policy, and an even relationship. The army definitely has to maintain neutrality."

Georgian Guard Battalions Formed in Abkhazia

MK0906160892 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jun 92 p 3

[NEGA column report: "Abkhazia"]

[Text] The Georgian Defense Ministry has decided to form three Georgian National Guard battalions in Abkhazia. Boris Kakubava, formerly "Mkhedrioni" leader in Abkhazia, has been appointed to carry out this decision.

On 7 June Georgian gunmen from the newly created National Guard battalions (around 100 men) seized the 15th Komsomol Congress Tourist Center in Sukhumi, where it is planned to set up a base for the Georgian National Guard in Abkhazia. Non-Georgians who try to get into the tourist center are repeatedly searched.

According to information from Abkhaz sources, representatives of the criminal world are being appointed commanders of the Georgian formations and, in particular, one battalion is headed by the criminal Soso Akhalaya.

Government Establishes Diplomatic Ties With PRC

OW0906203292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia and China established diplomatic relations in Tbilisi Tuesday [9 June].

The communique signed there says that taking into account the interests of their peoples the governments of both countries decided to establish diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors and exchange diplomatic missions.

The government agreed to develop friendship and cooperation based on equal rights, mutual respect, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of each other.

The Georgian government, says the communique, recognizes the government of the Chinese Popular [People's] Republic as the only legitimate government in that country and acknowledges that Taiwan is an integral part of China. The Georgian government confirms that it would not establish any official relations with Taiwan.

Estonia

Russia 'Illegally' Brings Troop Reinforcements

LD0906120992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Edgar Aaro, head of a service section at the Republic of Estonia's Border Guard Department, reported to the Baltic News Service that on 3 June Russia illegally brought over 100 young soldiers into Estonia to reinforce the military units stationed in Estonia. [passage omitted] The Estonian Government had previously turned down the Russian side's official request to bring new soldiers into Estonia. [passage omitted]

Doubts on Russian Intention To Withdraw Troops

LD1006102492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn June 10 TASS—Tiit Made, deputy chairman of the Estonian parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, is of the opinion that Russia, in talks with Estonia, has chosen a procrastination tactic and, it seems, is prepared to drag out negotiations for decades.

Speaking at the commission's meeting recently, he voiced doubt that a dialogue on the problem of Russia's military presence in Estonia would be continued during the next round of the talks.

The fourth round is scheduled to be held in Moscow on June 30 while talks on a time-frame and a procedure for the withdrawal of troops that are under Russian jurisdiction were suspended on the Estonian delegation's initiative at the Tallinn round of the talks on June 2-4.

In a statement made in this connection, the Estonian side accused Russia of seeking to perpetuate the stay of its troops in Estonia by "imitating the conduct of negotiations".

In the belief that Russia's military presence in Estonia poses a serious threat to European security, the authors of the statement urged the political leadership of Russia, other states, international organisations and the world public to use all their influence to ensure that foreign troops are withdrawn from Estonia.

Meanwhile, Russia, accused of tactics of procrastination and delays, has already withdrawn 12 military units from Estonia, without waiting for the conclusion of any agreement on military matters. The withdrawal is being hindered by the Estonian side, Russian delegation leader Vasiliy Svirin told journalists.

A large unit of ecologically unsafe chemical troops [as received] stationed in the health resort city of Parnu, has been for a long time waiting for a permission to leave. The authorities are hindering its withdrawal owing to property disputes: the Estonian side declared all hardware, equipment and facilities that are at the disposal of "occupation troops" to be state property.

Svirin's opinion is that it is difficult to speak about a withdrawal of the Army, having in mind only personnel, and not everything that is part of the notion of the Armed Forces—hardware, weapons, ammunition and other army equipment.

Some local analysts believe that the suspension of the talks is primarily of benefit to the Estonian side. Having interrupted the talks by a demand to withdraw troops by the end of 1992, the present authorities find themselves clean before their potential voters during the forthcoming elections to the new parliament this autumn.

Anti-Russian Remarks by Envoy to FRG Viewed

PM0906134992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jun 92 First Edition p 6

[Article by Vyacheslav Yelagin: "How About The Young Ambassador's Revelations"]

[Text] The diplomatic career of Estonian Ambassador to the FRG Mr. T. Matsulevits has been unusually successful. In his early thirties he has already presented his credentials as a plenipotentiary representative of the Estonian Republic, but his meteoric rise has clearly not done much to enhance the ambassador's diplomatic tact and political shrewdness. This is exemplified by a lengthy interview in the Berlin paper SUPER.

What did T. Matsulevits tell German readers? Russia, apparently, is exerting enormous pressure on neighboring countries to turn them into satellite states. Using far from diplomatic language, he ascribes to Russia an economic blockade of Estonia and a desire to appropriate the Western aid that is going to the republics of the former USSR. There was a great deal of unfounded criticism of Russian servicemen as well. Our military are accused of overt saber-rattling, of attacking Estonians, and of beating them up. Mr. Matsulevits puts this down to Great Russian chauvinism, which is just as dangerous as the former Soviet imperialism. According to the diplomat, the Russian leadership thinks in Great Russian terms as well.

In what way does Matsulevits suggest Russia should be influenced? Primarily by means of creating a counterweight (read bloc) in alliance with Ukraine, Byelarus, and other CIS countries, while the West is recommended not to get locked into giving aid to "Moscow alone." This is by no means a complete rundown of the Estonian diplomat's epistolary balancing act.

But there was much the ambassador left out for some reason. For example, the fact that to a considerable extent Tallinn owes its state independence to the present Russian democrats. Economic blockade? If there were one it would not be difficult to predict all its consequences for Estonia. Some of the hiccups in trade and economic relations between the two countries, however, are by no means due to

Moscow's machinations but to current objective difficulties both in Russia and in Estonia.

Provocations on the part of the Russian military? Why did the ambassador not mention the recent seizure of the territory of the Russian surface-to-air missile regiment in the Estonian city of Valga? Yet it was by no means an isolated incident.

The Matsulevits interview is just one link in the chain of the unfriendly policy the Estonian ruling circles have been conducting in relation to Russia lately. Tallinn's line is at odds with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to which Estonia is party.

Economy Minister Resigns; Acting Minister Named

LD0906114692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0935 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Tallinn—At the June 8 press-conference Prime Minister of Estonia Tiit Vahi said that Minister of Economy Heido Vitsur decided to resign after being elected chairman of the elections bloc the Reliable Home, a group uniting the association of land owners and the united party. The prime-minister accepted the resignation of Mr. Vitsur. Estonian Minister of Construction Olari Taal became acting minister of the economy.

Latvia

West's Support for Army Withdrawal Noted

LD1006034392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Beautiful words and loud words, even for justified demands, will not give us anything if we don't work ourselves for our own needs. This was said by Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans speaking today at a news conference on the problems associated with the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia.

The minister, who has just returned from Oslo where he attended a session of the Council of NATO and a meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, reported that in the West there is full support for the Baltic states' striving for the soonest possible solution to the question of the withdrawal of the former USSR Army. In documents adopted in the Norwegian capital, it was stressed that Russia must observe the basic norms of international justice. These stipulate that a foreign military force may not be present in a sovereign state without that state's permission.

In the words of Janis Jurkans, in the documents to be signed at the summit of participant states in the Helsinki process due to be held in July, these formulations, so important to the Baltic countries, will be worked in. The minister expressed the prediction that Russia could not have any essential objection to these. The West understands us; therefore at present our most important work must be done in Moscow, said the Latvian foreign minister.

Janis Jurkans believes that in the talks with Russia on the questions of the withdrawal of the army, Latvia must work out a flexible and refined tactic. In addition, in the minister's view, at the moment it is necessary to coordinate the two countries' positions at the highest level because it is necessary to direct relations between Latvia and Russia into a new phase of development.

I also think we ought to support the democratic forces in Russia because in the event that they are lost, people could come to power whose action could destabilize the situation not only in the Baltics but all over Europe, Jurkans said. He also believes that only and solely at the negotiation table can a speedier timetable for the withdrawal of the Russian Army be achieved.

Wants Meeting at 'Highest' Level

OW0906131892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1306 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Baltic countries should now shift to Moscow the emphasis of their efforts regarding the ex-Soviet troops withdrawal, said Latvia's minister of foreign affairs Mr. Janis Jurkans at a press conference in Riga Monday [8 June], given the West has already done its utmost in this area.

Last week, Mr. Jurkans, among the other ministers of foreign affairs, was taking part in a meeting of the North Atlantic Coordination Council (NACC) countries in Oslo.

Mr. Jurkans revealed that the meeting had offered another proof that the NACC countries (especially, Denmark and Poland), as well as the NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner "sincerely wish to assist the Baltics in troops withdrawal". At the same time, in order to facilitate the solution of this issue, Mr. Jurkans deems it important to arrange a meeting between Russia and Latvia at the highest political level.

Defense Council Warns Russia Not To Interfere

LD0906223892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Today the Defense Council of the Republic of Latvia discussed the press announcement by Colonel Kandalovsky, chairman of the Assembly of Officers' of the Russian Military Group, in which in the name of this assembly he warned that preparations are being made for an armed coup in Latvia, claiming that in the event of a coup, Russian troops will defend the lawful government of Latvia.

In this connection, the Latvian Defense Council announces that the Assembly of Officers of the Russian Military Group and organizations associated with it have repeatedly expressed their hostile attitude to the state independence of Latvia and have come out with provocative announcements. The activity of the Assembly of Officers testifies to their efforts to destabilize the situation and the desire to take over the actual leadership of the Russian Military Group.

The lawful defense, internal affairs, and security structures of the Republic of Latvia are fully in control of the situation in the country and deny any possibility of an armed overthrow. The Defense Council of the Republic of Latvia regards as impermissible the interference of the Russian forces and their structures in Latvian internal affairs and categorically forbids their use in settling the internal and external policy questions of the Latvia.

The Defense Council calls on the procurator general, the Foreign Ministry, and the internal affairs and security structures to take the necessary measures within the limits of their competence if provocative actions are directed against Latvian interests by the Russian Military Group.

Officials Answer Questions on Use of Airspace

LD1006035892 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Today a news conference organized at the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia was devoted to questions of the use of Latvia's airspace. Meeting with journalists were the commander of the Air and Anti-Air Defense Administration, Karlis Kins; the director of the Department of Aviation at the Ministry of Transport, Austris Zobens; and the director of the State Enterprise Latvian Air Transport, Aleksandrs Okladnikovs.

They emphasized that with the establishment of independence, Latvia has also become the mistress of the republic's airspace. All questions of air transport are decided by the state enterprise, Latvian Air Transport. In the interests of air safety, the government of the republic has adopted a resolution that flights over Latvian territory are allowed only with a special license, which is valid for one year. This applies also to flights by Russian Air Force aircraft over Latvian territory. On this question, agreement has been reached with the troops that they will observe Latvia's laws on the use of airspace.

Ministry To Ban Russian Overflights

OW0906215192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1819 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian military planes can enter Latvian airspace only with special permission from the state firm "Latvias Gaisa Satiksme" (Latvian Air Relations), in coordination with the Latvian Defense Ministry.

The director of the Aviation Department of the Latvian Transportation Ministry Austris Zobens said at a press conference Monday [8 June] that permission will be granted for a one year period. He noted that permission for civilian flights is effective from May 1.

The head of the anti-aircraft forces of the Latvian Defense Ministry Karlis Kins said at the press conference that the ministry intends to ban Russian military flights over the repubic altogether.

No Russian List on Vessels in Port Noted

LD1006044892 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 1930 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Three Latvian naval vessels have begun monitoring the sea gateways to the Liepaja naval harbor. By 3 June, the Russian side had not fulfilled the demand sent to the Baltic Fleet commander by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Latvia to provide a list of all the Russian naval vessels based in Latvian ports.

Therefore, a resolution was passed not to let any naval vessel into Liepaja harbor. Besides, it has been reported that newly recruited sailors are aboard one ship. Although the command of the Russian naval fleet has also protested sharply, at the moment a list of that side's border defense ships has been provided and in the near future it is also to provide a complete register of the ships in the Baltic Fleet.

In the future, those ships that are not on the list will be allowed into the port only by application to the Foreign Ministry, stating the purpose of the visit 30 days in advance.

Law on Stay of Foreign Nationals Adopted

LD1006104392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 0925 GMT 10 Jun 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Riga—Foreigners and persons without citizenship, staying in Latvia for three months, should get residence permission at the Latvian Department for Citizenship and Immigration Issues. It is said in the law on entry and stay of foreigners and persons without citizenship in the Latvian Republic, adopted by the plenary meeting of the Latvian Supreme Soviet on June 9. According to the law, a permit for temporary residence is handed out for a term not exceeding 6 months or for a term necessary for completing labor contract, studies, scientific work, etc. Permission for permanent residence may be obtained by a wife or a husband of Latvian citizen or persons having permanent residence permit and their children, orphans cared for by the Latvian citizens, foreigners who invested into Latvian economy over 1 million US dollars, specialists necessary for Latvian national economy. Persons, staying in Latvia over 3 months upon expiration of the permit term, should be expelled from Latvia within 7 days. The law does not refer to persons, whose order of stay in Latvia is determined by inter-governmental agreements, which chiefly pertains to the RF [Russian Federation] servicemen. While discussing the order of the law enactment debates were unfolded on whether the norms of the law refer to permanent residents of Latvia, registered here before in keeping with the laws that were previously in force, but who are not Latvian citizens or their descendants. Many deputies believe that if they agree with the draft resolution and pass the wording on determining the order of this bracket of citizens stay by a special law, they will heighten social tension in the republic. The draft also envisages that former USSR servicemen, discharged from the army to the reserve and residing in Latvia, won't be issued permits for stay. Upon the debates a resolution was passed to resume voting on June 10 when the working group finalizes the draft.

Embassy in Moscow Begins Issuing Visas 1 Jun

OW0906154092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1306 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian Embassy in Moscow has notified Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that beginning June 1 its consular office began issuing entry visas.

The Embassy's second secretary Mr Egons Neimanis explained to the BALTFAX correspondent that the consular office issues visas to any foreign citizens, other than the residents of the CIS and the Baltic countries, the latter enjoying visa-exempt right to enter the territory of Latvia. The cost of a transit visa to Latvia equals $5, multiple visa $100, single entry visa $20. Visa issuing formalities, in the words of Egons Neimanis, do not exceed 2 days.

Local Officials Embargo Supplies to Zvarde

LD0906203492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1615 GMT 9 Jun 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Riga—In Latvia Saldus District Administration has decided to cut telephone communications with the military unit of Zvarde Firing Ground. Besides, bread, electric power and water supplies have been cut off. This was told on June 8 by Janis Broks, people's deputy, at a press-conference on problems of Zvarde Firing Ground, one of the largest ones in Europe where bomb dropping tests can be carried out.

This firing ground is situated on the territory of Saldus and Dobel Districts of the Republic of Latvia. According to Janis Broks, before 1955 on the territory of this firing ground some 3,000 people had lived. There were schools, churches, graveyards and over 500 peasants' farms there. Since 1955, the territory is used for bomb dropping. Thus, e.g., in 1991 over 2,000 bombs were dropped here. Damages from bombing in the money equivalent run to 800 million rubles, in the opinion of Broks. Janis Broks also said that therefore Saldus District Administration adopted a decision on June 5 to cut supplies to the military unit which maintains the firing ground. Besides, according to Broks, a local battalion of voluntaries (zemessargs) searches cars and lorries which go to the military unit.

The firing ground is at present blocked by four groups of zemessargs armed with submachine-guns. Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Zadubrovskiy, an officer of the press-center of the Northern-Western group of troops, said at a press-conference that missiles' launches are stopped at the firing ground, whereas bomb droppings are cut down by 2-3 times as compared to 1991. The weight of the bombs has been reduced from 250-500 kg to 100 kg.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Supports Elections, Tenure Limits

OW0906191792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin" No. 90—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his appearance on the Lithuanian television, head of the republic's parliament Vytautas Landsbergis reiterated his proposal to conduct new elections to the parliament, limiting the deputies' tenures to one year. He also suggests that the premier remain the same prior to the elections. In his words, the new parliament should be "non-partisan, consisting of good, credible persons".

In the opinion of Mr Landsbergis, the new parliament should focus on instituting a strong government, adopting the republic's constitution, and "seeing off the Russian army". He believes that the "most appropriate time" for the elections would be September or early October.

Commenting on the situation in the government, Mr Landsbergis avers that some of the leftist deputies are looking forward to replacing only the premier, rather than the whole government. He, however, did not propose any particular candidate for the office of the prime minister, remarking that, according to the provisions of the law, the premier's resignation automatically signals the resignation of all the government.

By the time of release of the Presidential Bulletin, the Lithuanian parliament had resolved to stage the new elections to the Sejm (parliament) in September-early October 1992. By that time, the parliament is expected to adopt a new (or amend the current) law on the elections based on a mixed system (proportional-majority).

Government Question 'Not Finished'

LD1006014892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, who spoke at the end of the Council session, gave the impression that the government question is not finished. According to him, the situation that has developed between the Supreme Council and the government remains the same as it was before and it must be resolved. This will be done in accordance with the statement adopted—through consultations between faction representatives.

According to the parliament leader, perhaps by next week we will have to discuss what the government's prospects are during the period preceding elections to the Seimas. In his estimation, agreement will be reached which will enable a vote to be taken by some sort of a larger majority or perhaps by all the deputies for an acceptable solution.

There will be no other plenary sessions this week since the deputies have decided that the most important thing currently is the referendum on the army's withdrawal, which will take place Sunday [14 June]. Therefore, one needs to go to the voters and to talk to the people.

Vagnorius Says Government Lacks Council Support

LD1006014392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Supreme Council of Lithuania did not satisfy the resignation statement submitted by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. [passage omitted] Consultations were held last night by deputies and faction representatives which succeeeded in reconciling positions regarding the question of future elections.

Today a statement was adopted by the Supreme Council on yesterday's agreement between factions. It notes that elections to the Supreme Council or the Sejm will be prepared in accordance with a new or a revised present election law in late September or early November. By 30 June the new election law must be ready and agreement should be reached regarding the election date. A new draft constitution will also be prepared.

It was also decided to continue consultations among the Supreme Council factions and to submit for the plenary session agenda only those questions that have been coordinated by all the factions and draft laws that the present Supreme Council must [word indistinct] prior to the new elections. Sixty-seven deputies voted in favor of this type of statement, 11 abstained, and none voted against it. [passage omitted]

Speaking today in parliament Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius stated that a situation exists currently whereby the government is not supported by the Supreme Council majority. He said: This confrontation which is forming within the Supreme Council and in other political strata may be linked to the fact that the current opposition to the government is not positive. It often takes the form of destructive opposition forces. We are being blamed, Vagnorius noted, because the government failed to remain neutral and commenced to participate more actively in political life. I regret the fact, he said, that it happened this way and that in recent months the government was compelled to address not only the economic reforms but to allot more attention also to political life.

In discussing economic reforms the prime minister remarked that during the past year they were proceeding at a sufficiently rapid pace. However, a great danger has arisen that the reforms—if they are not supplemented by the most necessary legal and administration-supportive levers—may give rise to chaos and wilfullness, the first indications of which we are already experiencing.

According to the prime minister, we are stuck because of a lack of order, and to institute order the government should have been allowed to administrate by organizing municipal authority (?work) and the work of government structures.

The prime minister reiterated that under the present conditions the government can no longer fulfill its duties. By the way, he expressed his doubt whether the Supreme Council factions will succeed to agree and designate a date for the new elections and to carry out all the points presented in today's statement by 30 June. Therefore, even if the parliament would not support the statement of resignation with the situation remaining unchanged, the conditional prerequisite for normal work by the government would still be lacking. [passage omitted]

Gediminas Vagnorius remains prime minister.

Minister Discusses Nuclear Fuel Storage

LD0406101492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Interview with Leonas Asmantas, minister of power engineering, by Saulius Liauksminas; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Liauksminas] Mr. Minister, the first item on the agenda to be discussed at today's session of the Lithuanian Government concerns the construction of a depository for spent nuclear fuel from the Ignalina AES [nuclear electric power station]. How important is this question and how did it happen that it is first on the agenda?

[Asmantas] I think it is purely accidental that it is first on the agenda. Of course, it is better to have this question solved earlier [words indistinct]. The question has come to the fore before, in the sense that the spent nuclear fuel is not being taken away anywhere. I think the people of Lithuania are aware of this. So far nothing has been taken away from Ignalina; it is being stored in the same building. The depository for the first reactor will be full by April 1994 and we will have no place to deposit the spent fuel.

As you know, the spent fuel is stored there for more than 10 years. After 10 years, it has to be moved to another depository. There is no point in extending the already existing depositories inside the building, nor is it sensible from the technological point of view. Therefore, there must be a decision to build a new depository so we can operate the nuclear power station.

Of course, it could be said that negotiations should be held with the suppliers of the fuel, asking them to take the spent fuel away. Perhaps this was being done at some time, but at that time there was a general policy that such a depository would be built in the Union for the RBMK [high-power pressure-tube reactor] waste products or, speaking more precisely, for the spent nuclear fuel. The

Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering, however, adopted the decision that power stations with RBMK will take care of their own storage because it was not economically viable to process this fuel. So as we see, the situation has entirely changed. Therefore, we ourselves must look for options to store the spent fuel. [passage omitted]

Government Makes Decision

LD0506054192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] At today's government meeting chaired by Premier Gediminas Vagnorius problems of the republic's energy economy were examined.

A decision was adopted to plan the construction of a depository to store nuclear fuel used up by the Ignalina nuclear power station. Its construction should be completed in two to three years. The plan will be drawn up by experts from St. Petersburg. It is intended to ask experts from France and perhaps from other foreign countries to ensure safety in operating this object.

The government approved a decision on the reconstruction of the Mazeikiai oil refinery and the improvement of its technological processes. It is intended that this enterprise will increase its production capacities and turn out products corresponding to world standards. Representatives of a large U.S. firm and of the World Bank took part in the examination of this issue. In their opinion, a modernized Mazeikiai oil refinery which is operating on a commercial basis could, with its production, establish itself in the the markets of the Baltics and some other neighboring states and operate with profit.

The government supported a proposal by the Ministry of National Defense to establish a Lithuanian national defense academy. This issue will be submitted for the examination to the Supreme Council.

Other issues were also discussed at the meeting.

Nuclear Plant Protection Discussed

LD0506055192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] A meeting took place today at the Ministry of Power Engineering on the protection of the Ignalina nuclear power station from earthquakes. It was attended by representatives of the Ignalina nuclear power station, the Institute of Geology, the nuclear energy protection inspection, the environment protection department, the Lithuanian Institute of Power Engineering, and other organizations.

It was discussed how to avoid unpleasant consequences, hardly expected in Lithuania, in case of an earthquake. It was envisaged to install a sensitive seismic equipment and technological improvements stopping the work of the reactors in advance.

Prosecutor Comments on KGB Investigation

OW0506095192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 0625 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The director of the General Prosecutor [as received] of the Lithuanian republic feels that the parliamentary committee investigating the activities of the KGB is not responding to security interests. "By publishing documents of the former KGB in the press, the committee tied the hands of law enforcement officials who are unable to act instantly and effectively," the head prosecutor of the criminal investigation department Juozas Gaudutis said in an interview with the "Respublika" newspaper.

In addition, a member of the committee Deputy Jurgis Jurgelis said in an interview with "Respublika" that Sajudis is trying to include its deputies in the committee so that those who "previously had contacts with the KGB" are not exposed.

Terleckas Comments on Vagnorius-KGB Link

LD0806093192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] I risk my political career and assume all responsibility in claiming that Gedimanas Vagnorius was placed at the head of the government by the KGB, said Mr. Antanas Terleckas, the leader of the Lithuanian Freedom League, speaking on the national radio today.

He repeatedly accused the prime minister of causing a political and economic crisis in Lithuania. According to Mr. Terleckas the KGB had masterminded a very cunning plan. In January of 1991 it wanted to seize parliament by force and after the action failed the KGB decided to install its second echelon in power—the present prime minister with his team. According to Antanas Terleckas, Mrs. Kazimiera Prunskiene was the first echelon.

As claimed by the leader of the Lithuanian Freedom League, Prime Minister Gedimanas Vagnorius, with the assistance of the national defense minister, Audrius Butkevicius, could become a dictator. If the leftists, who are not very clever in Antanas Terleckas's opinion, give the prime minister extra wide-ranging powers, that will be a catastrophe. Mr. Terleckas admitted that not all, even among the radicals, agreed with him, but pointed out that he had not received much support when he began fighting Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene either.